KEIKO USHIJIMA'S PROFILE

*Birthday July 6th
*Originally from Saga in Saga Prefecture
*Blood type A
*Debut work *Yami no Banji Hikoukenin*

ASUKA COMICS

フレッドウォード氏のアヒル 3

牛島慶子

Fredward-shi no Ahiru 3 Ushijima Keiko

ASUKA COMICS

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KEVIN AND ROSEMARY ARE OFF TO A SUNNY ISLAND DOWN SOUTH. CHERYL, A BALLERINA, SERVES AS THEIR TOUR GUIDE. THE THREE STORIES SHINING SEA, BEYOND THE ENDLESS DREAM, AND THE GATES LEADING TO HEAVEN ARE COMPILED INTO THIS THIRD VOLUME OF THE SERIES!!

Keiko Ushijima's Asuka Comics

Our Seven-Day War
Our Seven-Day War 2
Necromancer
Mermaids Can't Sleep
Toy Soldier
Mr. Fredward's Duck v1-3

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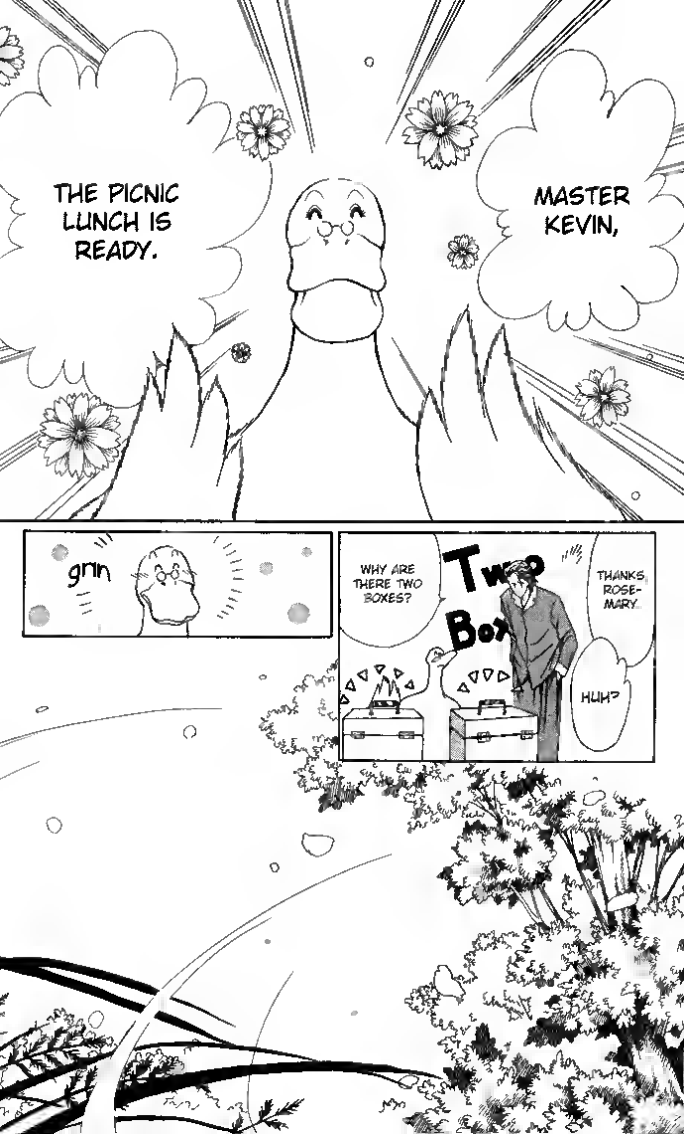
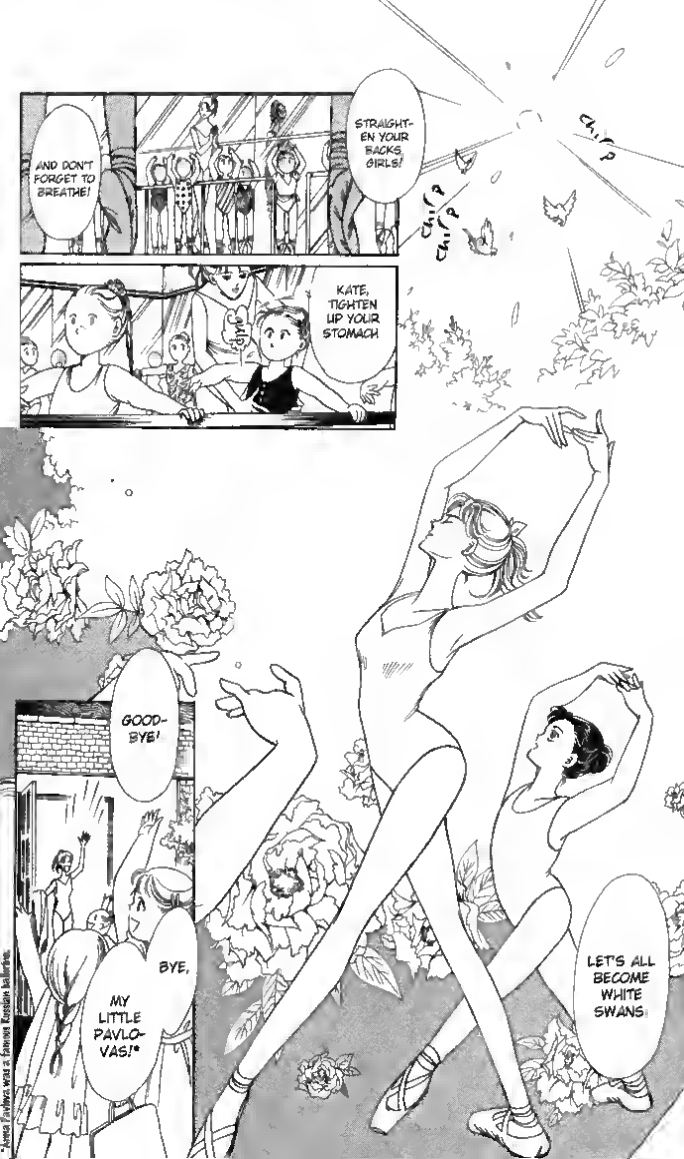
Shining Sea
シャイニング・シー

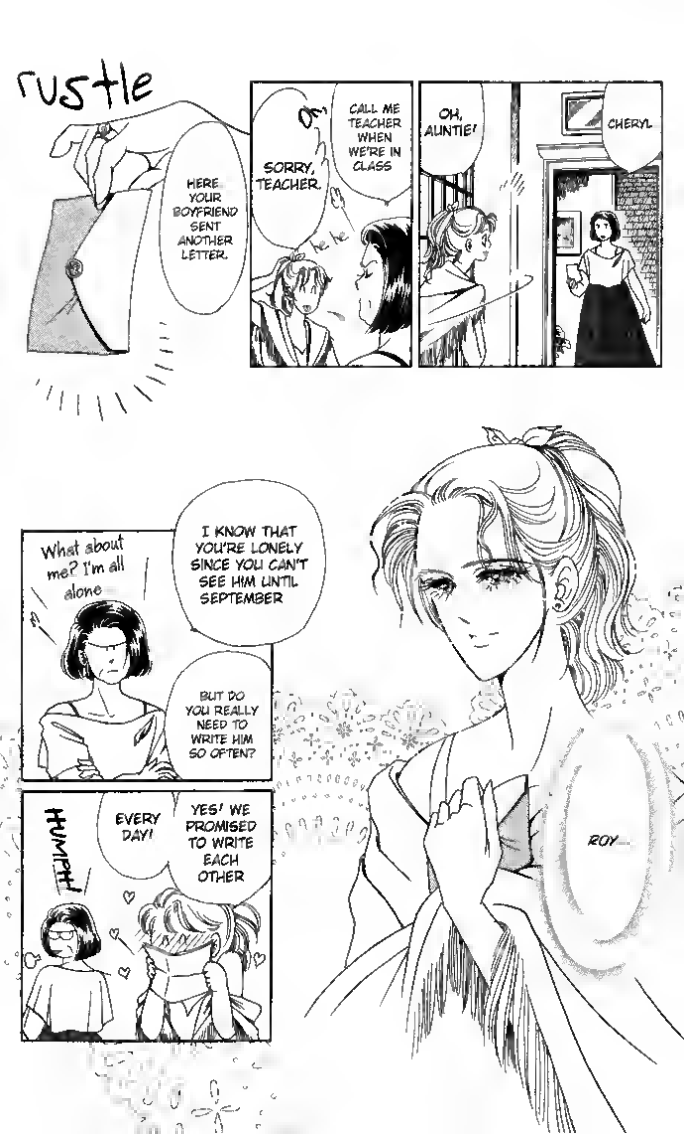
Kevin and Rosemary


THE PICNIC LUNCH IS READY.
MASTER KEVIN,
grin
WHY ARE THERE TWO BOXES?
THANKS, ROSEMARY.
HUH?

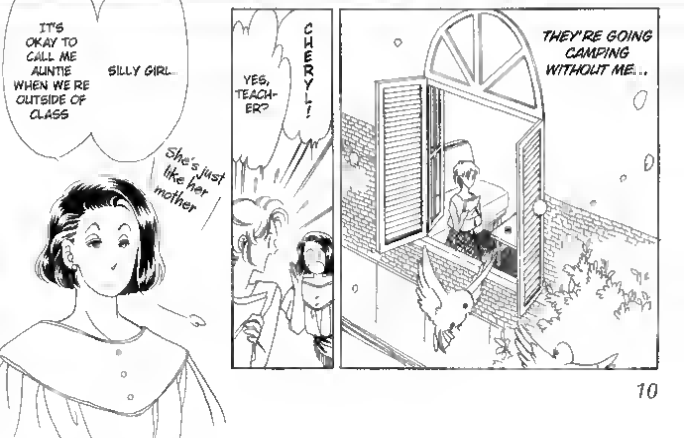
WHEN THE AFTERNOON SUNSHINE BEGINS TO FADE...
IT ALWAYS FEELS LIKE THERE'S SOMETHING MISSING...
WHAT IS THIS VAGUE UNEASINESS WRAPPED AROUND MY HEART...?
OH SHINING SEA, PLEASE TELL ME!
...I'M MEANT TO DO...?
WHAT EXACTLY IS THE IMPORTANT THING...
Condensation Scanlations



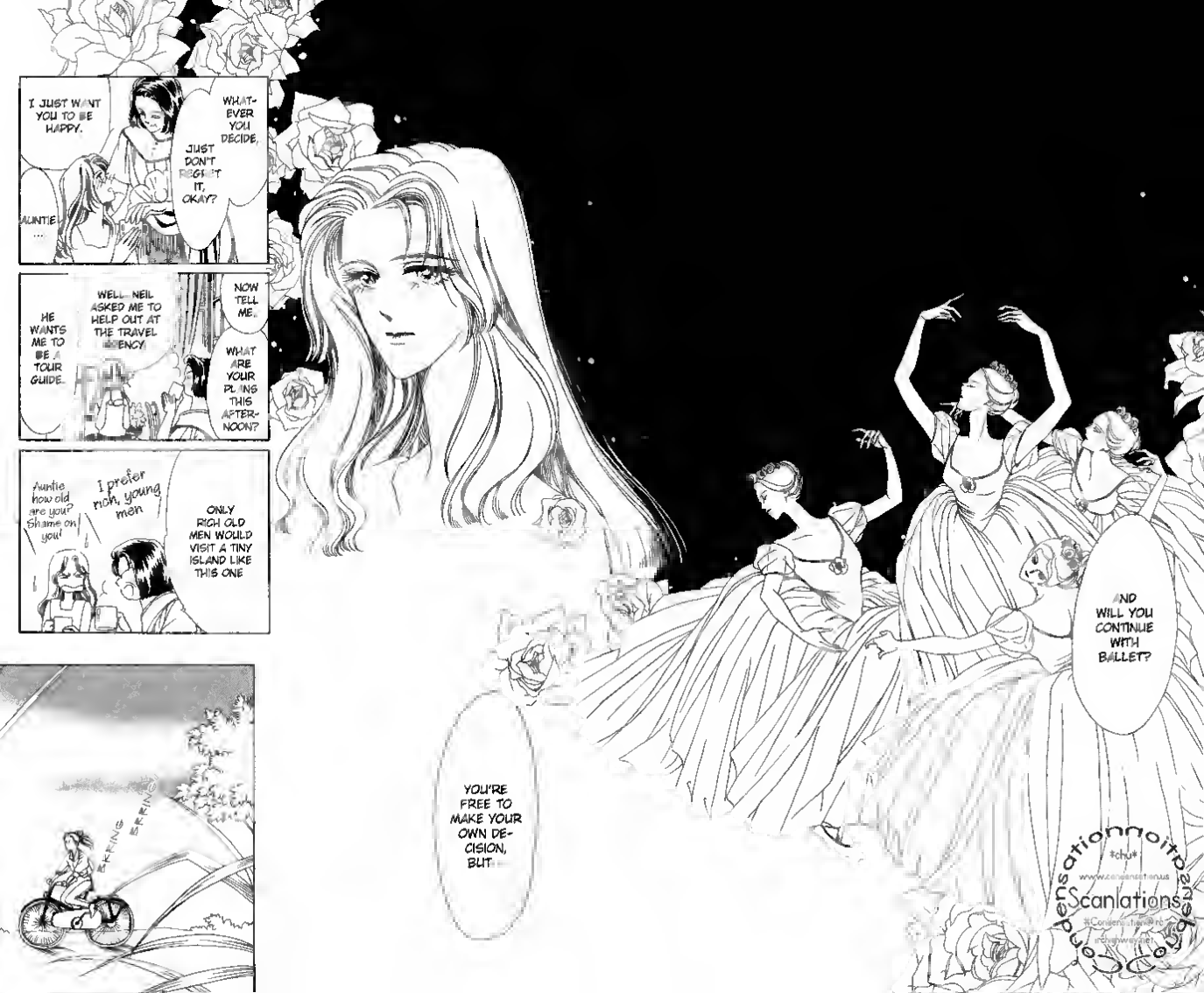
*Anna Pavlova was a famous Russian ballerina.


rustle
HERE YOUR BOYFRIEND SENT ANOTHER LETTER.
SORRY, TEACHER.
CALL ME TEACHER WHEN WE'RE IN CLASS
OH, AUNTIE!
CHERYL
I KNOW THAT YOU'RE LONELY SINCE YOU CAN'T SEE HIM UNTIL SEPTEMBER
What about me? I'm all alone
BUT DO YOU REALLY NEED TO WRITE HIM SO OFTEN?
HUMPH!
EVERY DAY!
YES! WE PROMISED TO WRITE EACH OTHER
ROY

Dearest Cheryl,
It's been two months since you left for your aunt's place on the island
I've been stuck with only Meg and Ryan for company
Tomorrow the three of us are going camping at the lake.
I'll be sending you pictures so look forward to seeing them.


IT'S OKAY TO CALL ME AUNTIE WHEN WE'RE OUTSIDE OF CLASS
SILLY GIRL
She's just like her mother
CHERYL!
YES, TEACHER?
THEY'RE GOING CAMPING WITHOUT ME...

I'VE BEEN MEANING TO ASK YOU
HAVE YOU DECIDED WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO DO ABOUT YOUR LESSONS?
FRANKLY, I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO QUIT BALLET TWO YEARS AGO,
WHEN YOUR FAMILY MOVED TO THE CITY.
YOU REFUSED TO GO TO THE BALLET SCHOOL I SUGGESTED.
AND CHOSE TO GO TO A REGULAR HIGH SCHOOL INSTEAD
I'M STILL TAKING LESSONS, THOUGH...
TAKING LESSONS ONLY ONCE OR TWICE A WEEK WON'T DO YOU ANY GOOD
STILL, YOU DID CHOOSE TO COME HERE FOR THE SUMMER.
SO, WILL YOU CONSIDER DANCING GISELLE FOR THE UPCOMING FESTIVAL?


I JUST WANT YOU TO BE HAPPY.
WHATEVER YOU DECIDE. JUST DON'T REGRET IT, OKAY?
AUNTIE...
NOW TELL ME.
WELL... NEIL ASKED ME TO HELP OUT AT THE TRAVEL AGENCY.
HE WANTS ME TO BE A TOUR GUIDE.
WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS THIS AFTERNOON?
Auntie how old are you? Shame on you!
I prefer rich, young men
ONLY RICH OLD MEN WOULD VISIT A TINY ISLAND LIKE THIS ONE
AND WILL YOU CONTINUE WITH BALLET?
YOU'RE FREE TO MAKE YOUR OWN DECISION, BUT...
KRRING KRRING
Scanlations
www.sensationnoitpecnoc.com

SORRY FOR MAKING YOU WAIT!
HELLO!

ARE YOU...
—MY TOUR GUIDE?

I'M KEVIN FRED-WARD
NICE TO MEET YOU
WHAT?! AUNTIE SAID HE'D BE OLD!
I'M CHERYL CHERYL REED
WOW, WHAT BIG HANDS
I SHOULDVE WORN A SKIRT!
?
HE'S SO TALL. I THINK HE'S ALMOST A FOOT TALLER THAN ROY
INSTANTLY COMPARES HIM TO HER BOYFRIEND
opens
HUH?!
TWO BOXES OF FOOD?
DOES HE EAT SO MUCH BECAUSE HE'S SO TALL?

YOU DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING, DID YOU?
I'M NOT SURE
SLAM
RUSTLE RUSTLE

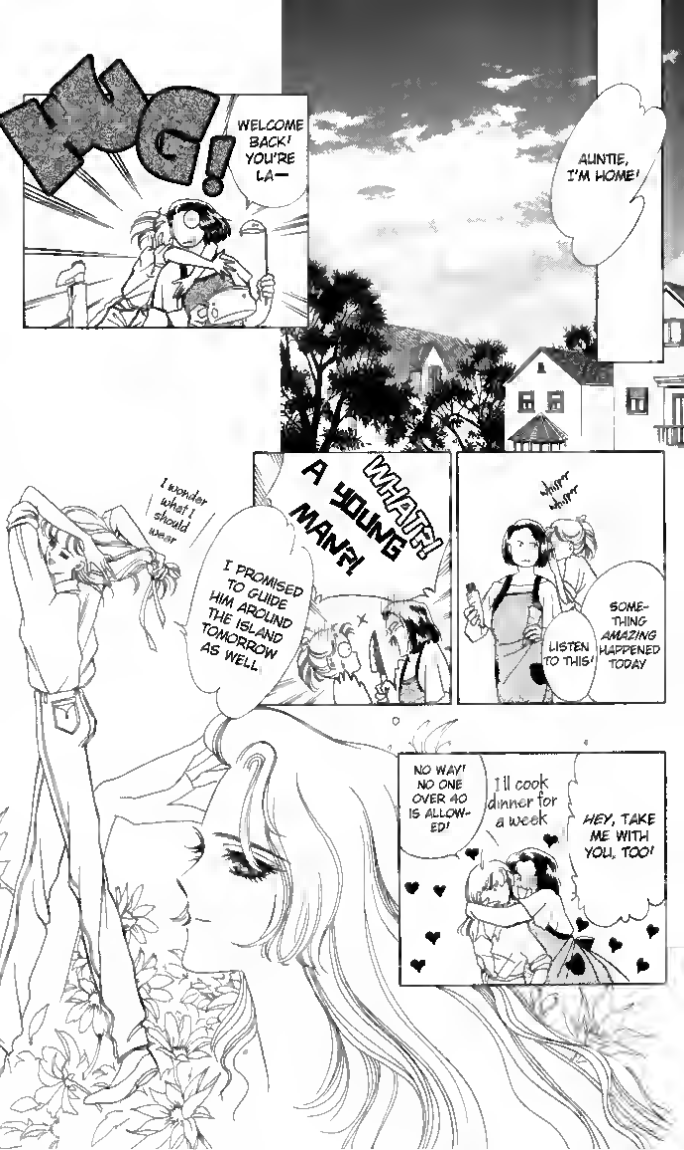
I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT WRITING A BOOK WITH THIS ISLAND AS THE BACKGROUND.
MR. FREDWARD, THIS IS THE SOUTHERNMOST CAPE OF THE ISLAND.
THERE'S A CAVE UNDER THE CLIFF THAT WE CAN ENTER WHEN THE TIDE IS OUT.
DO YOU WANT TO SEE IT?
A SMALL ISLAND COLORED BY SOFT RAYS OF SUNSHINE AND THE SOUND OF THE WAVES...
CALL ME KEVIN.
HEY, MR. FREDWARD...
HA

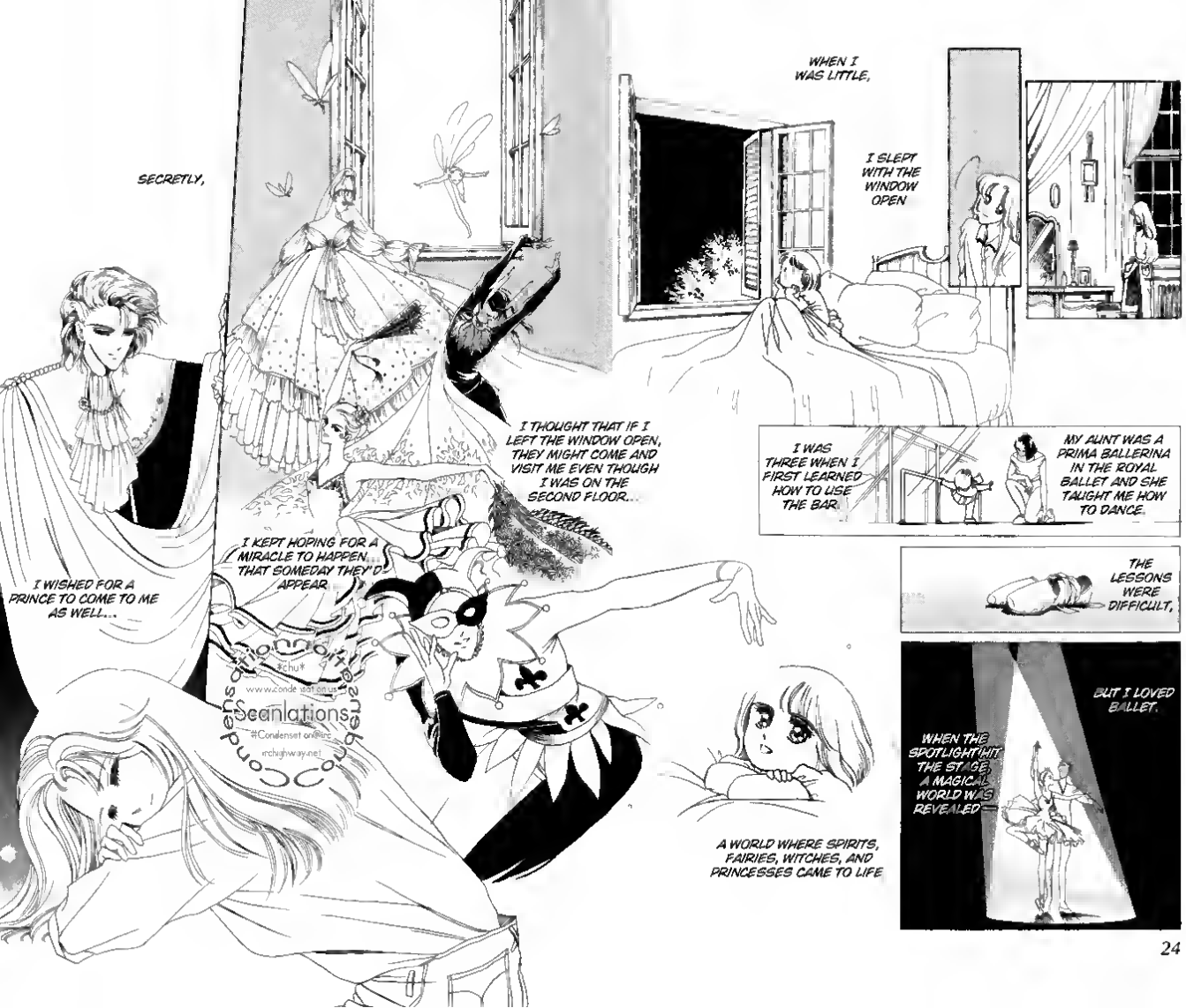
THERE'S SOME KIND OF ANIMAL IN THAT BASKET ISN'T THERE?
I HOPE IT'S NOT A SNAKE OR LIZARD.
BUT...
WE SHOULD LET IT OUT
...THE POOR THING.
OH!
WHAT A KIND CHILD.
ROSEMARY.
WELL, THAT'S WHAT YOU GET FOR INSISTING ON COMING ALONG.
dark

MASTER KEVIN,
DON'T YOU THINK SHE'S A LOVELY GIRL?
A DUCK?!
!
IT'S A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU, MISS CHERYL
THIS IS ROSEMARY, MY HOUSE-KEEPER.

IT'S A MIRACLE!
PLEASE DON'T WAKE ME UP IF I'M DREAMING
YOU'RE ALIVE!
YOUR HEART'S BEATING!
I'VE ALWAYS DREAMED OF SOMETHING MAGICAL LIKE THIS HAPPENING!
ARE YOU REALLY HUMAN? OR ARE YOU BOTH WIZARDS?

Will you please help me prepare lunch?
Hey, say something else!
WHAT A SURPRISING REACTION.
POW
That really hurt
I don't believe you
EVEN I DIDN'T BELIEVE ROSEMARY UNTIL SHE PUNCHED ME
IF SHE WERE AN ORDINARY GIRL, SHE WOULD HAVE PANICKED BY NOW
IT'S ONLY NATURAL THAT DIFFERENT PEOPLE WOULD HAVE DIFFERENT REACTIONS
NO, NO... ONCE AGAIN, I'M TRYING TO FORCE MY IDEAS ONTO OTHER PEOPLE.
SHE'S EITHER REALLY NAIVE,
OR SHE JUST ADAPTS EASILY TO STRANGE SITUATIONS.
Don't kill me off so easily!
Hmm...
HE'D PROBABLY DIE FROM SHOCK.
THOUGH, IF THE PROFESSOR EVER SAW ROSEMARY,
Hey!


ALINTIE, I'M HOME!
WELCOME BACK! YOU'RE LA—
WHAT?! A YOUNG MAN?!
I wonder what I should wear
I PROMISED TO GUIDE HIM AROUND THE ISLAND TOMORROW AS WELL
whisper whisper
LISTEN TO THIS!
SOMETHING AMAZING HAPPENED TODAY
NO WAY! NO ONE OVER 40 IS ALLOWED!
I'll cook dinner for a week
HEY, TAKE ME WITH YOU, TOO!


SECRETLY,
I WISHED FOR A PRINCE TO COME TO ME AS WELL...
I KEPT HOPING FOR A MIRACLE TO HAPPEN... THAT SOMEDAY THEY'D APPEAR.
I THOUGHT THAT IF I LEFT THE WINDOW OPEN, THEY MIGHT COME AND VISIT ME EVEN THOUGH I WAS ON THE SECOND FLOOR...
WHEN I WAS LITTLE,
I SLEPT WITH THE WINDOW OPEN
I WAS THREE WHEN I FIRST LEARNED HOW TO USE THE BAR.
MY AUNT WAS A PRIMA BALLERINA IN THE ROYAL BALLET AND SHE TAUGHT ME HOW TO DANCE.
THE LESSONS WERE DIFFICULT,
BUT I LOVED BALLET.
WHEN THE SPOTLIGHT HIT THE STAGE, A MAGICAL WORLD WAS REVEALED
A WORLD WHERE SPIRITS, FAIRIES, WITCHES, AND PRINCESSES CAME TO LIFE
#chu#
www.condenset.com
Seanlations
#Condenset on Arc
rchughway.net

BUT I HAVE NO ONE..
IT ISN'T FAIR
HE HAS MEG AND RYAN TO CONFIDE IN..
OH, YEAH... HE WENT CAMPING
THAT'S RIGHT! I HAVE TO WRITE TO ROY!
I HAVE TO KEEP ROSE-MARY A SECRET, THOUGH
...REALLY HAVE NO ONE I CAN TURN TO?
WAIT... DO I..
OPEN YOUR EYES, CHERYL!
ROY...
I KNOW THAT BALLET IS IMPORTANT TO YOU, BUT DON'T YOU HAVE TIME TO GO ON A DATE?
THERE ARE VERY FEW BALLERINAS WHO HAVE ENOUGH TALENT TO BECOME PROFESSIONAL.
THE ONES WHO SUCCEED ARE SPECIAL
STOP RUNNING AWAY FROM REALITY AND START THINKING ABOUT YOUR FUTURE!

WE'LL BE GRADUATING FROM HIGH SCHOOL NEXT YEAR!
YOU'RE WEIRD, CHERYL
...THAT I CAME HERE TO QUIT!
JUST 'CAUSE YOU DANCE BALLET, YOU THINK THAT MAKES YOU A PRINCESS?
I can't believe it!
THAT'S HILA-RIOUS!
AREN'T YOU TOO OLD TO BELIEVE THAT?
AUNTIE TAUGHT ME HOW TO DANCE AND HAS ALWAYS TREATED ME LIKE HER OWN CHILD.
HOW CAN I SAY IT?
WHEN SHOULD I TELL HER?
HOW CAN I TELL HER I'M NOT GOING TO DANCE ANY-MORE...

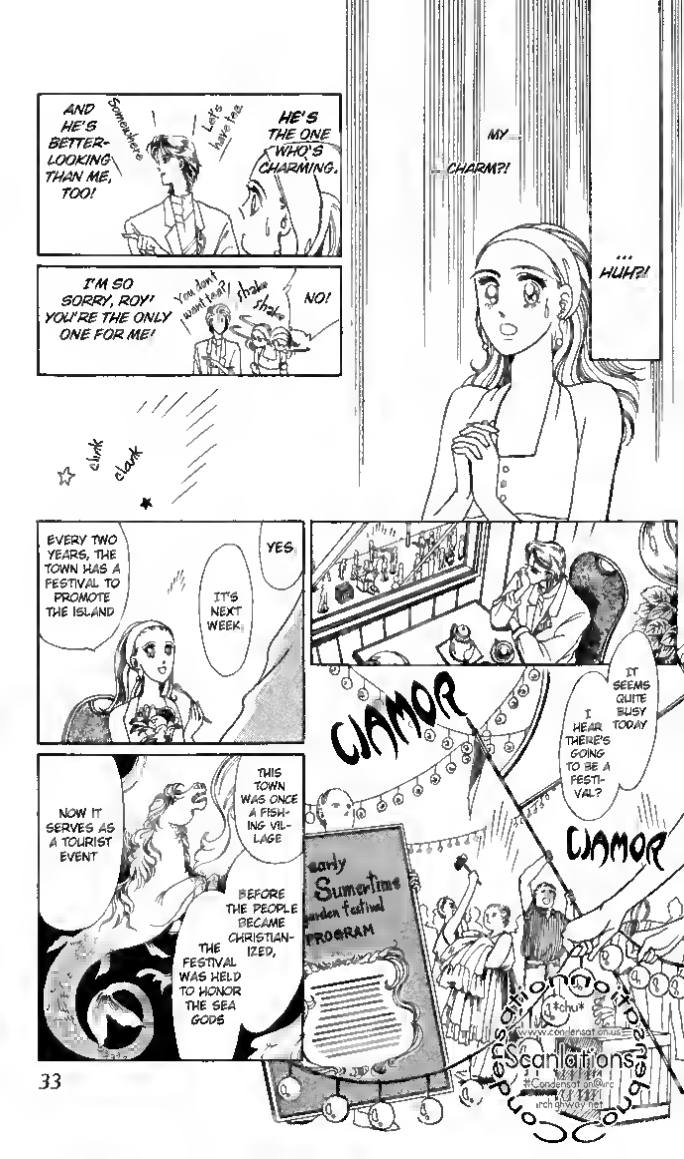
I'LL PUT IN SOME ORANGE PEELS. THEN SOME BOUGAINVILLEA AND...
...PEPPERMINT.
LET'S SEE...
WHAT'S THAT? IT SMELLS NICE
I'M STILL RESEARCHING THE LEGENDS OF THIS ISLAND.
MASTER KEVIN HOW'S YOUR WORK GOING?
THIS COTTAGE ISN'T EXACTLY HOME,
SO I THOUGHT I'D MAKE SOMETHING TO HELP YOU RELAX.
I MADE POTPOURRI

SO I'LL PROBABLY START WRITING TONIGHT!
I HAVE SOME IDEAS,
I'M SURE IT'LL BE FINE
THANK YOU, ROSE-MARY
BESIDES, I DRANK "LUCK" WITH YOU, REMEMBER?
sfx: Kii rii is the sound that crickets make.
How naive!
Sigh
THAT'S WHY I CAN'T LET YOU OUT OF MY SIGHT...
DON'T TELL ME YOU REALLY BELIEVED IT...
I MADE UP THAT STORY TO CHEER YOU UP, MASTER KEVIN...
It'll go well, no matter what!

'MORNING. SORRY IT'S SO EARLY
THAT'S OKAY!
WHERE'S ROSE-MARY?
ALL DRESSED UP TODAY
KEVIN!
SHE'S NOT COM-ING TODAY
I HAVE TO GO TO THE LIBRARY, AND SHE'D ATTRACT ATTENTION,
DON'T YOU THINK?
OH
SO, SHE'S NOT COMING.
SHE SAID TO TELL YOU HELLO
MY COMPANY ISN'T ENOUGH?

O-OF COURSE IT IS!
..EYES THAT SPARKLE LIKE A GLASSY SEA...
...AND PALE BLOND HAIR THE COLOR OF MOONLIGHT.
EVERYONE KEEPS LOOKING AT US!
He's walking because yesterday we left him alone at the cottage.
ha ha ha
BIG IDOT
I HAVE A PET DOG AND HE'S STILL A PUPPY.
THERE'S ANOTHER REASON WHY ROSEMARY CAN'T BE HERE.
THIS MAN HAS...

EEK!
JUST REALIZED IT
WOW-
toes point out
GLOOM...
OH, CHERYL,
DO YOU DANCE BALLET?
SHOCKED
H-HOW DID YOU KNOW?
FROM THE WAY YOU STAND
I'M SORRY!
BLUSH
WHY?
BECAUSE ROY, MY BOYFRIEND,
THINKS IT'S WEIRD AND DOESN'T WANT TO BE SEEN WITH ME WHEN I STAND THAT WAY.
SEEMS LIKE
HE JUST DOESN'T APPRECIATE YOUR CHARM.


AND HE'S BETTER-LOOKING THAN ME, TOO!
Somewhere
Let's have tea
HE'S THE ONE WHO'S CHARMING.
I'M SO SORRY, ROY! YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE FOR ME!
You don't want tea?
shake shake
NO!
clunk
clank
MY CHARM?!
... HUH?!
EVERY TWO YEARS, THE TOWN HAS A FESTIVAL TO PROMOTE THE ISLAND
YES.
IT'S NEXT WEEK.
CLAMOR
IT SEEMS QUITE BUSY TODAY
I HEAR THERE'S GOING TO BE A FESTIVAL?
CLAMOR
NOW IT SERVES AS A TOURIST EVENT
THIS TOWN WAS ONCE A FISHING VILLAGE
BEFORE THE PEOPLE BECAME CHRISTIANIZED, THE FESTIVAL WAS HELD TO HONOR THE SEA GODS
early Summertime garden festival PROGRAM
1st chuk
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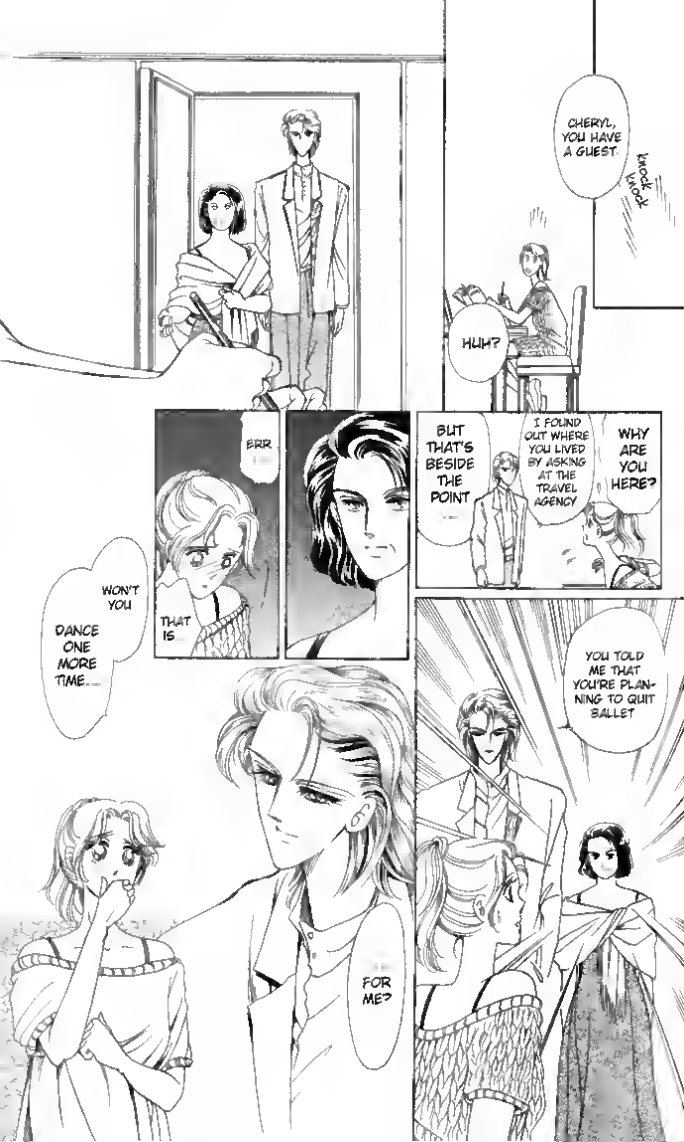
ARE YOU GOING TO DANCE, CHERYL?
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
THE CHILDREN IN MY AUNT'S BALLET CLASS ARE PERFORMING SOME SCENES FROM SWAN LAKE ON AN OUTDOOR STAGE.
They'll be a flock of dancing swans
MY AUNT ASKED ME
TO DANCE A SOLO FROM GISELLE, BUT,
I'M NOT GOING TO DO IT
THE TRUTH IS I'M A HORRIBLE DANCER.
I GO TO BALLET SCHOOL ONCE OR TWICE A WEEK.
BUT I'VE NEVER HAD A MAIN ROLE IN A BALLET. I'VE ALWAYS BEEN A CORPS DANCER
NOT LONG AGO I DANCED SWAN LAKE WITH A GROUP.
ROY! YOU CAME TO WATCH ME?

I COULDN'T PICK YOU OUT FROM THE OTHER DANCERS
BUT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE
SORRY CHERYL
I TRIED TO TAKE SOME PICTURES OF YOU,
BUT I CAN'T KEEP DOING THIS ANY LONGER
I DON'T WANT TO DISAPPOINT MY AUNT, WHO'S BEEN TEACHING ME BALLET FOR OVER 13 YEARS
I'M QUITTING BALLET.
THANKS TO ROY I REALIZED IT WOULD ALWAYS BE LIKE THAT.
THAT'S WHEN THE TRUTH HIT ME.

HEY, CLIFF
FEELING BETTER?
WOOF
WOOF
I'M QUITTING BALLET...
WHY IS THIS BOTHERING ME SO MUCH?
IT'S HER LIFE...
HEY, KEVIN,
IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME...
THEY CONTINUE TO LIVE ON IN OTHERS' HEARTS.
EVEN AFTER PEOPLE DIE,

THE GIRL WHO DROWNED HERSELF IN A LAKE...
...BECAUSE OF HER UNREQUITED LOVE FOR A DANCER.
AS LONG AS YOU KEEP REMEMBERING ME...
CHERYL IS ABOUT TO DO THE SAME THING AS SALLY!
SALLY!

GETS UP
SHE'S GOING TO KILL HERSELF!
Huh? Didn't I just hear Master Kenn's voice?
SULKING AGAIN
IS THIS MS JENNIFER'S BALLET SCHOOL?
BYE-BYE!
GOOD-BYE, GIRLS!
WHO ARE YOU?


CHERYL, YOU HAVE A GUEST
knock knock
HUH?
WHY ARE YOU HERE?
I FOUND OUT WHERE YOU LIVED BY ASKING AT THE TRAVEL AGENCY
BUT THAT'S BESIDE THE POINT...
ERR...
THAT IS...
WON'T YOU DANCE ONE MORE TIME...
YOU TOLD ME THAT YOU'RE PLANNING TO QUIT BALLET
FOR ME?

GO ON AND DRESS FOR IT.
DO IT, CHERYL.
YOU CAN DANCE RIGHT NOW.
TEACHER, I'M IN YOUR HANDS
NO, CHERYL.
YOUR BODY AXIS IS ALREADY OFF!
DANCING IS NOT JUST ABOUT GOING THROUGH THE MOTIONS!
DON'T YOU FEEL ASHAMED IN FRONT OF YOUR AUDIENCE?

THE PAIN YOU FEEL MUST NOT SHOW ON YOUR FACE!
OR HER BELOVED AUNT.
SHE ISN'T SEEING ME ANYMORE.
RIGHT NOW
SHE'S BECOME GISELLE, THE VILLAGE GIRL
...SHE'S JUST ENJOYING HER DANCE WITH ALL HER HEART.
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chu
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DID SHE HURT HER LEG?
CHERYL!
OW...
STUMBLE
GO SHOWER AND CHANGE.
TWO HOURS AND THIRTY MINUTES! WELL DONE!
DROP
DANCERS ARE ALWAYS INJURED
BUT WHEN IT COMES TIME TO PERFORM IN PUBLIC...
SO WHAT DID YOU THINK OF CHERYL'S PERFORMANCE?
WE ALWAYS DEMAND THE BEST OF OURSELVES.
EVEN IF OUR TOES FALL OFF.*
WE'LL DANCE THE GRAND FOUETTE

*Fouetté refers to a ballet turn marked by its whipping movement

Shining Sea

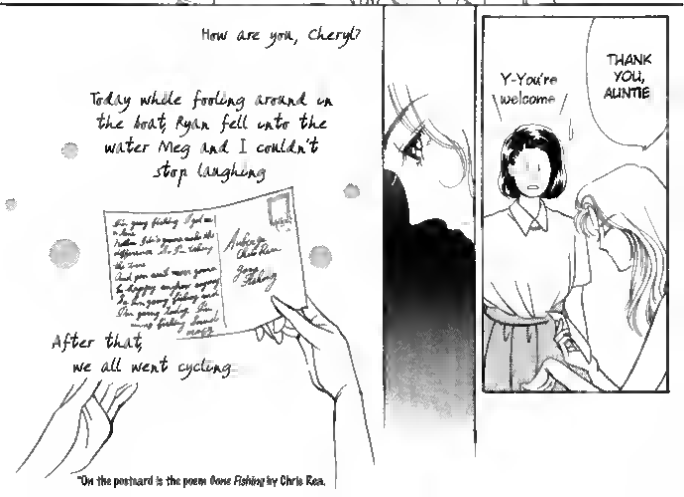
IT'S SAID THAT SHE DANCES THE BEST GISELLE.
HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE STORY?
AH...
IT WAS PERFORMED BY AN AMAZING JAPANESE BALLERINA.
I SAW IT FIVE YEARS AGO IN PARIS
HAVE YOU EVER SEEN GISELLE BEFORE?
CHERYL ISN'T ABLE TO PULL OFF A PERFORMANCE OF THAT CALIBER.
TRUE
BUT...
HER DANCING LACKS SPIRIT.
...IS HEART-WRENCHING, EVEN FROM A MALE'S POINT OF VIEW...
THE SCENE WHERE GISELLE FALLS INTO DESPAIR
AND DIES BECAUSE OF AN UNREQUITED LOVE...

NIKIYA FROM LA BAYADERE, WHO CAN ONLY UNITE WITH THE MAN SHE LOVES IN DEATH ...
WHO SEDUCES MEN UNTIL HER LIFE IS TAKEN ...
EVEN CARMEN,
AND ODILE, DAUGHTER OF THE EVIL ROTHBART ...
ODETTE FROM SWAN LAKE, WHO LOVES THE PRINCE WITH ALL HER HEART
...CAN'T BE ACCOMPLISHED BY TECHNIQUE ALONE.
MOVING THE AUDIENCE IS SOMETHING THAT...
NOR SHOULD SHE QUIT TO PLEASE HER BOYFRIEND.
CHERYL SHOULDN'T BE DANCING TO PLEASE ME,
SO SHE BECAME A WEAK-WILLED GIRL WITH NO INDEPENDENCE.
SHE WAS ALWAYS AFRAID OF BEING DISLIKED.
PERHAPS IT WAS BECAUSE SHE WAS TOO ABSORBED IN BALLET.
CHERYL HAS ALWAYS HAD TROUBLE MAKING FRIENDS.

SHE NEEDS TO MAKE THE DECISION FOR HERSELF...
HOW'S YOUR LEG?
IT'S FINE. I GET SPRAINS ALL THE TIME. I PUT A COMPRESS ON IT EARLIER.
BUT I'M A LITTLE EMBARRASSED THAT YOU SAW ME BEING SCOLDED.
...EVEN IF NO ONE SUPPORTS HER!
I CAN'T SEEM TO FIGURE OUT WHETHER I LIKE DANCING OR NOT...
AND WITHOUT SOME KIND OF A MIRACLE, I CAN'T POSSIBLY BECOME A PROFESSIONAL BALLERINA.
LISTEN, CHERYL.
WITHOUT MUCH OF AN EDUCATION,
I STILL MANAGED TO BECOME A WRITER
MOST PEOPLE PROBABLY WOULDN'T BELIEVE THAT IF I TOLD THEM

AND DIDN'T JUST WAIT FOR A MIRACLE TO HAPPEN...
BUT I REFUSED TO GIVE UP,
TRIED MY BEST
BACK THEN, I COULD ONLY SEE WHAT WAS IN FRONT OF ME!!
UNTIL I MET...
ROSEMARY!

THEN JUST KEEP DANCING UNTIL YOU CAN'T STAND IT ANYMORE.
IF YOU DON'T KNOW HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT DANCING,
CHERYL,
I'M SURE A MIRACLE WILL HAPPEN TO YOU, TOO.
DANCE UNTIL YOU THINK THE WORLD SHOULD BE RID OF BALLET!
CHERYL!
IT'S A POST-CARD FROM ROY!


How are you, Cheryl?
Today while fooling around on the boat, Ryan fell into the water. Meg and I couldn't stop laughing.
After that, we all went cycling.
Y-You're welcome
THANK YOU, AUNTIE

*On the postcard is the poem *Gone Fishing* by Chris Rea.

AUNTIE...
IT'S OKAY
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
HE TOOK THE TIME TO WRITE YOU, AND YOU—
SCAUNCH!
HE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND ME
ROY AND I ARE THROUGH
...BECAUSE HE'S STILL A CHILD!
AND HE DENIES EVERYTHING HE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND
HE WON'T ACKNOWLEDGE THE FACT THAT PEOPLE CAN BE DIFFERENT HE DOESN'T EVEN WANT TO THINK ABOUT IT!
ROY CAN'T SUPPORT ME—

I KNOW!
I KNOW!
BUT HE'S
AND HE'S AN ADULT!
I'M A KID,
I...
I LOVE KEVIN!
I CAN'T BE HIS SUPPORT!

I WANT TO KEEP DANCING!
AUNTIE!
I DIDN'T KNOW IF I WAS STRONG ENOUGH TO BEAR IT!
I WAS AFRAID OF BEING ALONE...
...SO I WAS GOING TO STOP DANCING.
I DIDN'T WANT ROY TO HATE ME...
IF I LOSE DANCING NOW,
I WON'T BE ABLE TO LIVE!
JUST KEEP DANCING UNTIL YOU CAN'T STAND IT ANYMORE
THOUGH I CAN'T BE WITH HIM...
BUT I LOVE KEVIN!!

MASTER KEVIN, IT'S STARTING! THE FIREWORKS ARE GOING OFF!
HURRY UP!
GOT IT, GOT IT.
HERE'S THE POTPOURRI I MADE. PLEASE GIVE IT TO CHERYL.
Give her my regards.
LATELY HE'S BEEN AVOIDING PEOPLE
CLIFF, WHY AREN'T YOU SEEING HIM OFF?
SLAM
FIREWORKS!
START THE MUSIC!

BUT I HEARD FROM THE TOWNSPEOPLE THAT SHE'LL BE PERFORMING TONIGHT.
I HAVEN'T SEEN CHERYL SINCE SHE DANCED FOR ME...
KEVIN ....
YOU CAME.

...CAST A SPELL ON HER?
DID A FAIRY...
I'M DANCING FOR YOU TONIGHT.

WAAAAH!!

*A Will is a jilted maiden who dies before her wedding night. The Wilis emerge between midnight and dawn to vengefully trap any man who enters their domain by forcing him to dance to his death. http://www.balletmet.org/Notes/Giselle.html

SOMEDAY—!
...ALL THE WHILE DREAMING OF HER BELOVED.
SOMEDAY, SURELY, YOU AND I WILL—!
YOU ARE MY MIRACLE!

WAHH!
THE CURTAIN CALLS CONTINUED ON AND ON...
TUSH
ROSEMARY'S POTPOURRI...
PERHAPS PERFUME WOULD BE A MORE APPROPRIATE GIFT NOW.

WAHHH!!
WAHHH!!
MASTER KEVIN MUST BE WATCHING CHERYL DANCE
RIGHT NOW,
OH SHINING SEA, PLEASE TELL ME
IF THE DAY WILL COME
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THE IMPORTANT THING I'M MEANT TO DO.
WHEN I CAN FINALLY ACCOMPLISH...

KUINNI,
WE AT CONDENSATION
WISH THAT YOU HAD
A GREAT BIRTHDAY AND
THAT YOUR NEW YEAR
BRINGS YOU LOTS OF
WARM AND FUZZY
FEELINGS.
CHU

Fredward-shi no Ahiru

Chapter 08 Credits

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chu

BEYOND THE ENDLESS DREAM

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GOOD MORNING EVERYBODY!
CLICK
WOULD YOU LIKE TO HEAR MY NEW SONGS?
I DON'T REMEMBER SETTING THE ALARM.
UHNN..
WHO TURNED ON THE RADIO?
BLAH BLAH BLAH
IT'S SO NOISY. WHAT TIME IS IT? ISN'T IT STILL DARK OUT? I NEED TO TO TURN THAT RADIO OFF...
A.M. 4:07
MY ARMS FEEL HEAVY...
WHY IS MY BODY SO WEAK?
AHHH... MAYBE I'M JUST TIRED FROM ALL THAT PACKING...
SLAP
CLICK
Jesus he knows
D: you see the face on the TV screen coming at you every Sunday see the face on the billboard that man is me
On the cover of the magazine there's no question why I'm smiling

SITS UP
WOW KIS
David Edwards
Wins Memorial
CLICK
Big Lea
image Health
BANG
SHUT UP!
PIII
...
BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH
TAKE THIS!

Woo "This is
must rem
Saturday, doz
were melted
HHH!
AHHHHH
HA HA HA HA HA HA

SHRIEK
UGH!

A DREAM...
SIGH!
I HAVEN'T HAD IT IN YEARS..
IT'S BECAUSE OF THAT DREAM...
THE ONE WHERE THE RADIO GETS LOUDER AND LOUDER NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I TRY TO TURN IT OFF...
GOD, I FEEL HORRIBLE.. LIKE I'M GOING TO VOMIT...
I SLEPT, BUT I'M STILL TIRED.

...THAT SOMETHING BAD IS GOING TO HAPPEN.
FROM THE TIME I WAS LITTLE, HAVING THAT DREAM HAS ALWAYS BEEN AN OMEN..
THE FIRST TIME I DREAMT IT, I GOT INTO A FIGHT WITH MY FRIENDS AND I LOST MY FRONT TOOTH.
I cried in front of my younger siblings
DEPRESSED
And I lost my dignity as their older brother
WHY DID I HAVE THAT DREAM TODAY?!

WE'RE FINALLY HOME, MASTER KEVIN!
Please don't talk about food right now
Ugh.
YOU DON'T LOOK WELL. NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, YOU DIDN'T EVEN EAT BREAK-FAST
WAUN
WILL SOMETHING HAPPEN IN THE NEAR FUTURE...?
I HOPE THAT DREAM DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING THIS TIME...
WHY NOW WHEN I'VE JUST RETURNED HOME?!
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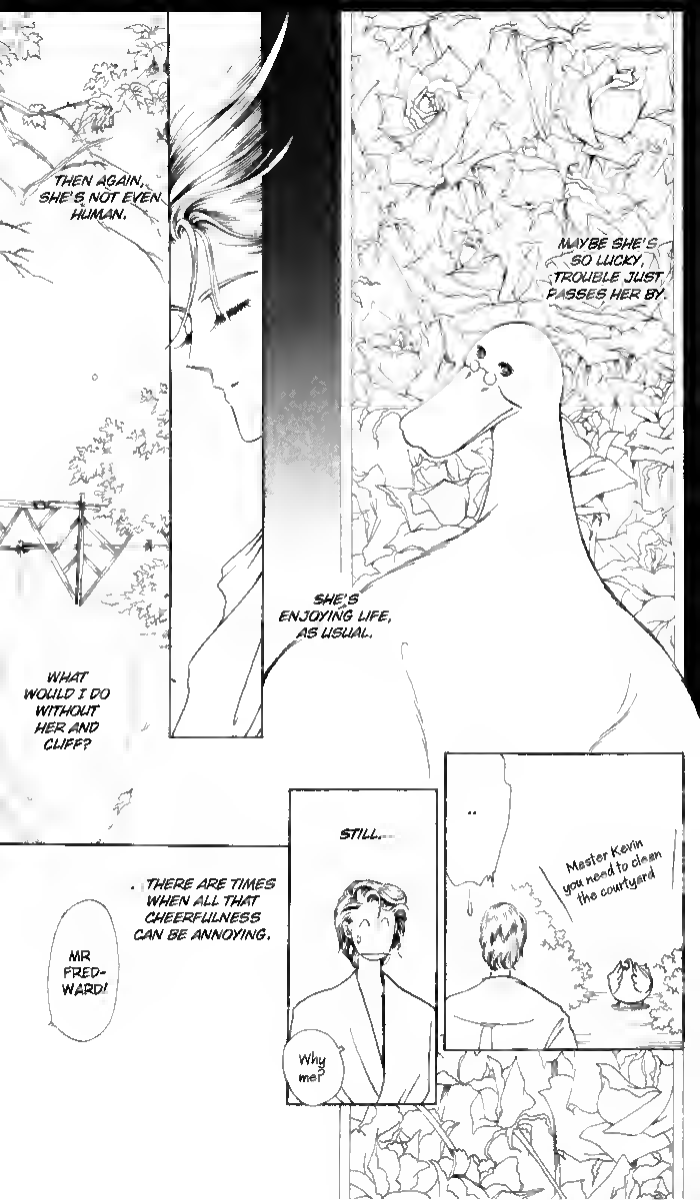
Scanlations

AND BECAUSE WE'VE BEEN AWAY FOR THREE MONTHS,
I HAVE PLENTY OF CLEANING TO DO TO KEEP ME BUSY!
YOU'RE ALWAYS SO CHEERFUL ROSEMARY
THE WEATHER IS WONDERFUL!
WE HAVE DELICIOUS FOOD TO EAT!
WELL, OF COURSE!
WOOF
LET'S GO CLIFF!
I'M VERY HAPPY!
I WONDER IF ROSEMARY
EVER HAS ANY PROBLEMS


THEN AGAIN, SHE'S NOT EVEN HUMAN.
MAYBE SHE'S SO LUCKY, TROUBLE JUST PASSES HER BY.
SHE'S ENJOYING LIFE, AS USUAL.
WHAT WOULD I DO WITHOUT HER AND CLIFF?
STILL...
Master Kevin you need to clean the courtyard
Why me?
MR FRED-WARD!
. THERE ARE TIMES WHEN ALL THAT CHEERFULNESS CAN BE ANNOYING.

HERE IS ALL OF YOUR MAIL...
OOMPH!
SIR!
AH, THANK YOU.
HERE ARE THE PLANTS WE TOOK CARE OF WHILE YOU WERE GONE.
WOW, SO MUCH MAIL...
MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE HAD IT FORWARDED TO THE COTTAGE
Most of it's junk.

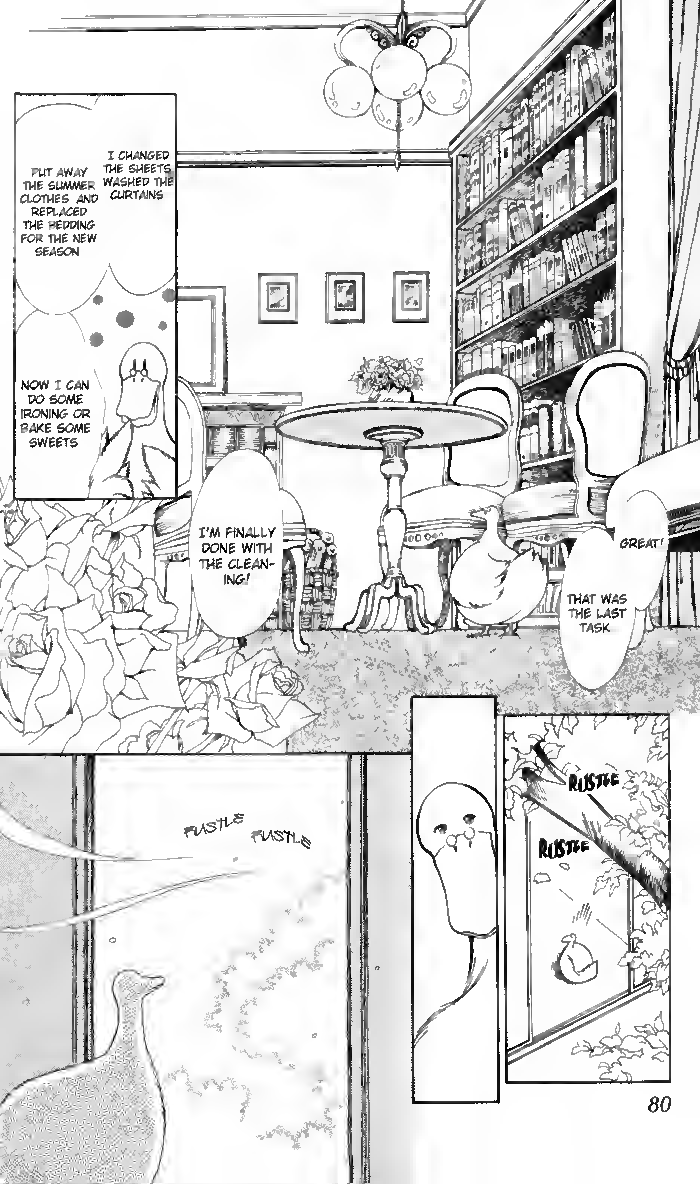
YES?
ROSE-MARY!
THAT'S IT.
AH, A LITTLE MORE TO THE LEFT.
YOU'RE BEING VERY HELPFUL CLIFF.
SORRY, BUT I'M GOING TO TOWN TO BUY A MAGAZINE
CREAK
SLAM
?

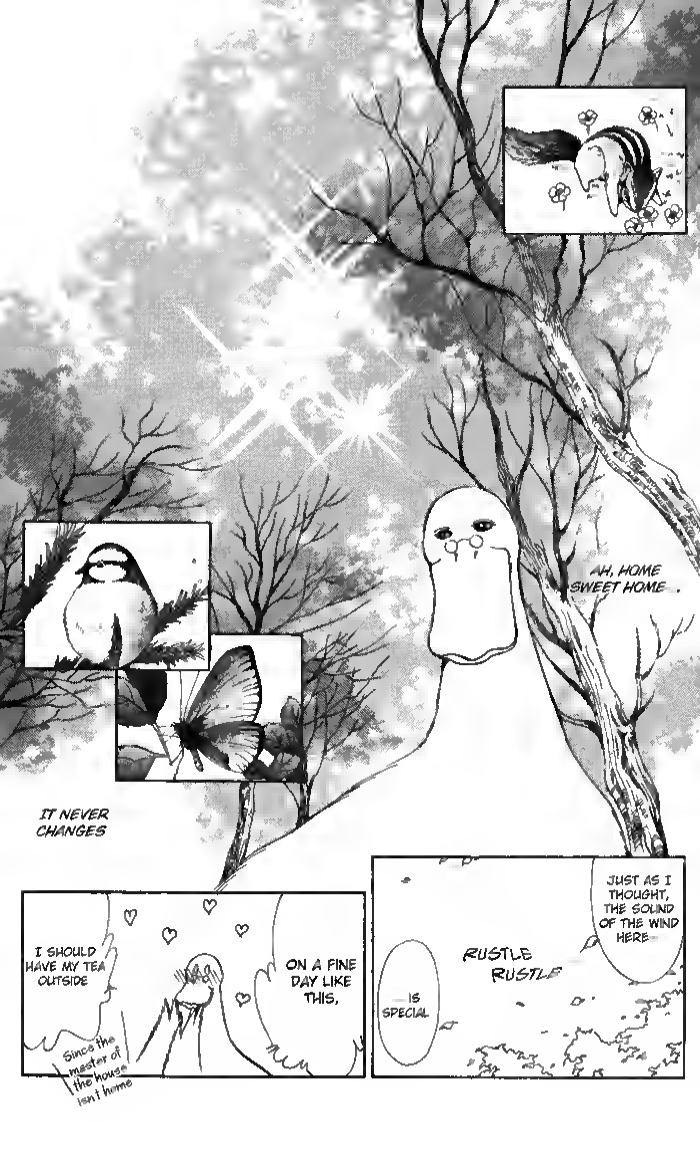
I NEED TO TAKE CARE OF SOME BUSINESS IN THE CITY WITH MY PUBLI-SHER.
CLINK
SORRY, ROSE-MARY,
BUT I RECEIVED A LETTER FROM WORK
CAN YOU WATCH THE HOUSE WITH CLIFF FOR A FEW DAYS?
YES, BUT...
WE'LL NEED TO BUY SOME MORE GROCERIES
WHAT? ANOTHER TRIP?!
THAT'S FINE.
I'LL BE LEAVING TOMOR-ROW

CLINK CLINK
MASTER KEVIN HAS BEEN REALLY QUIET
EVER SINCE THIS AFTERNOON, WHEN HE CAME BACK FROM BUYING THAT MAGAZINE.
I CAN TELL FROM HIS SILENCE THAT HE DOESN'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT, THOUGH
HE WON'T LOOK AT ME WHEN HE SPEAKS, WHICH MEANS HE'S PROBABLY HIDING SOMETHING
ALL HE HAS ARE ME AND CLIFF.

HAVE A SAFE TRIP!
GRAB
UNTIL THEN WE'LL JUST HAVE TO WAIT
whine
HE'LL BE BACK IN A FEW DAYS
...TO MASTER KEVIN
THAT'S MY DUTY...
HE NEEDS US TO STAY HERE AND WAIT PATIENTLY FOR HIS RETURN

POOF
AH, CLIFF...
DUST ISN'T GOOD FOR A DOG'S SENSITIVE NOSE
YOU SHOULD GO OUTSIDE
OCHOO
POOF
I'LL BE FINE BY MYSELF
YOU DON'T NEED TO HELP
BESIDES, DON'T YOU HAVE TO PROTECT THE HOUSE?
It's an important task.
GO ON
SWEET CLIFF...
THAT'S RIGHT...
GOLDEN RETRIEVERS ARE GOOD DOGS THAT CAN EVEN BE TRUSTED AROUND CHILDREN.
♪ Cliff is a great dog.


I CHANGED THE SHEETS WASHED THE CURTAINS
PUT AWAY THE SUMMER CLOTHES AND REPLACED THE BEDDING FOR THE NEW SEASON
NOW I CAN DO SOME IRONING OR BAKE SOME SWEETS
I'M FINALLY DONE WITH THE CLEANING!
GREAT!
THAT WAS THE LAST TASK
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE


AH, HOME SWEET HOME...
IT NEVER CHANGES
I SHOULD HAVE MY TEA OUTSIDE
ON A FINE DAY LIKE THIS,
Since the master of the house isn't home
JUST AS I THOUGHT, THE SOUND OF THE WIND HERE
RUSTLE RUSTLE
IS SPECIAL

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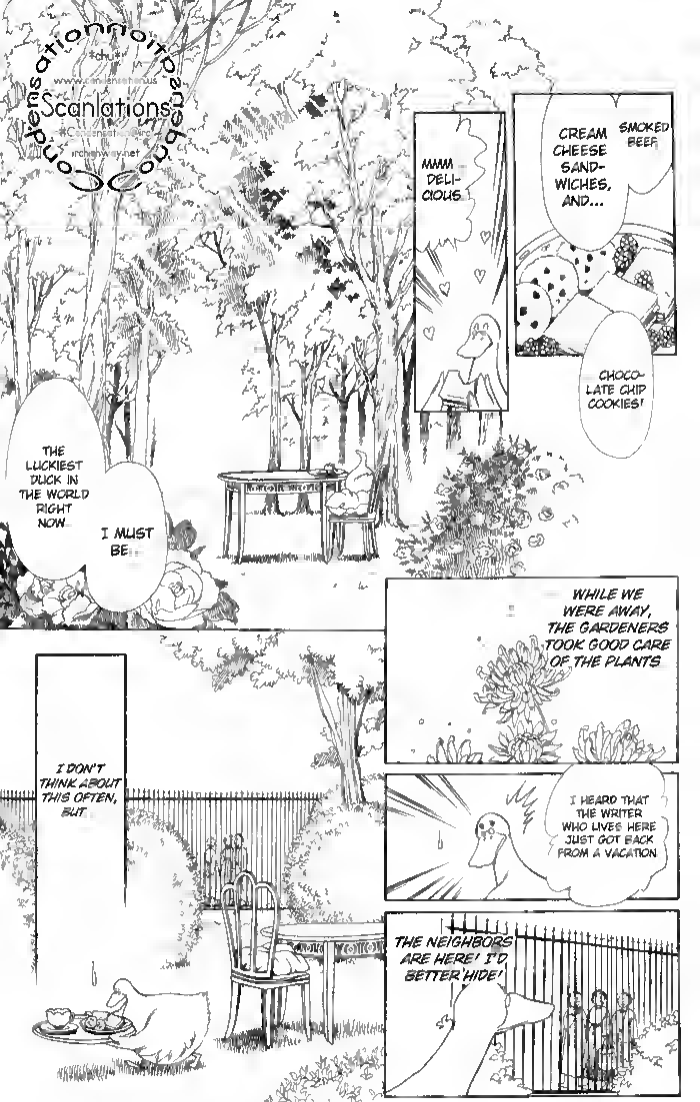
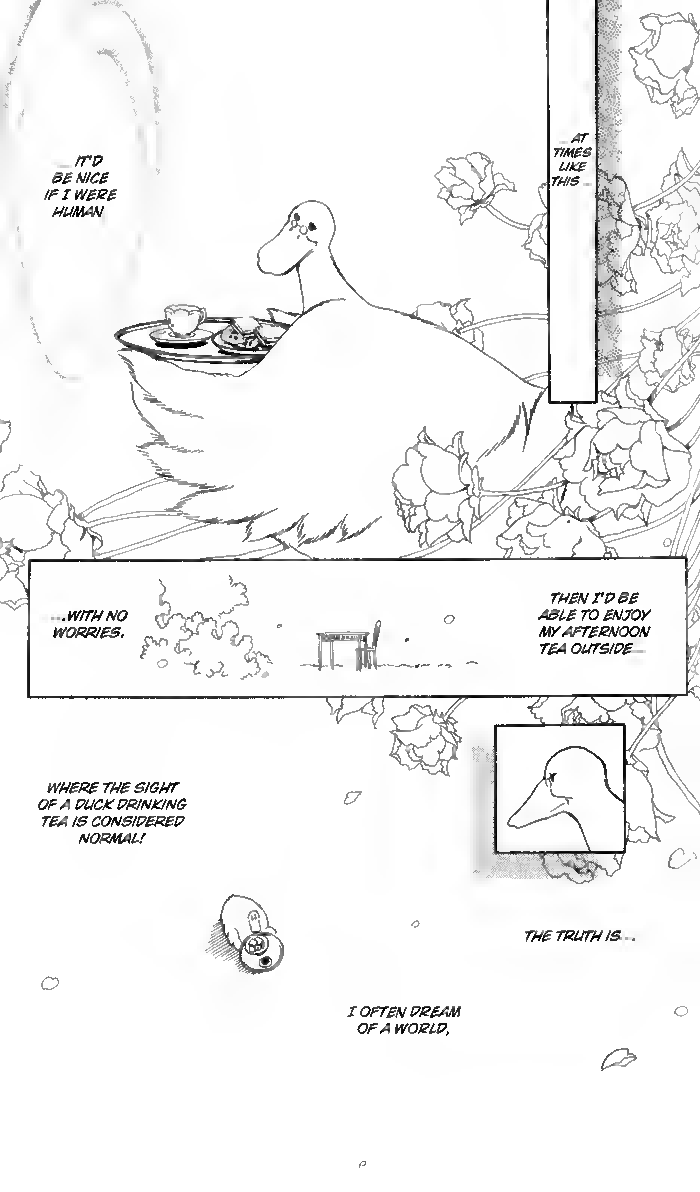
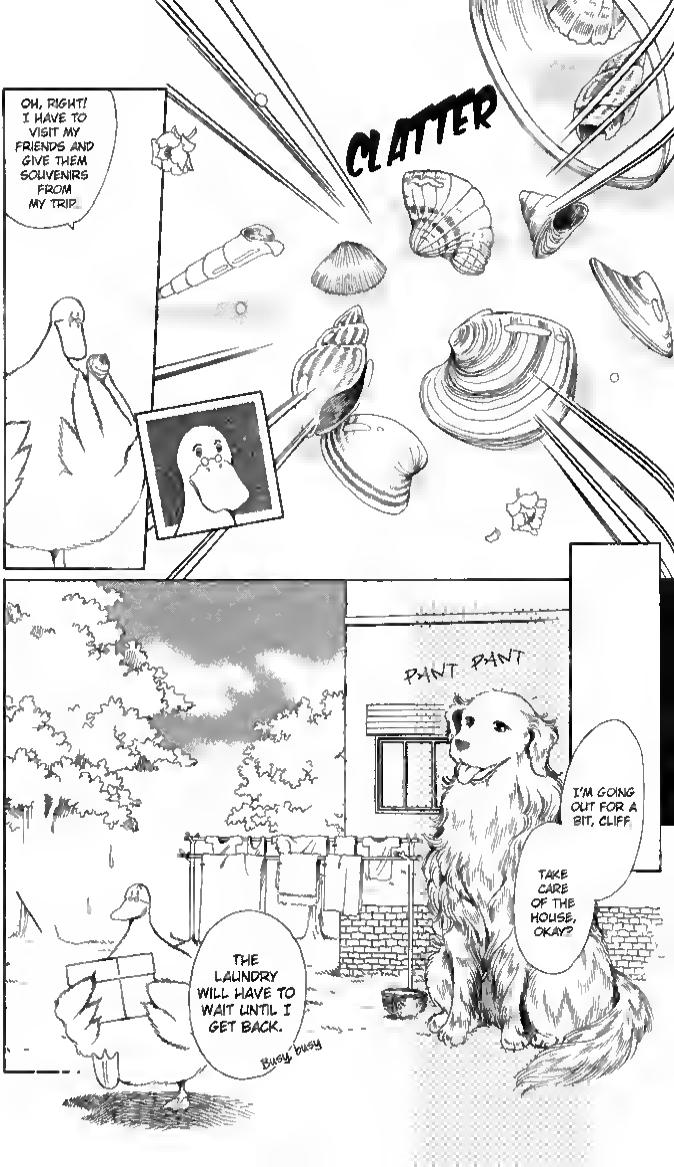

MMM DELI-CIOUS
CREAM CHEESE SAND-WICHES, AND...
SMOKED BEEF
CHOCO-LATE CHIP COOKIES!
THE LUCKIEST DUCK IN THE WORLD RIGHT NOW...
I MUST BE...
WHILE WE WERE AWAY, THE GARDENERS TOOK GOOD CARE OF THE PLANTS
I DON'T THINK ABOUT THIS OFTEN, BUT...
I HEARD THAT THE WRITER WHO LIVES HERE JUST GOT BACK FROM A VACATION
THE NEIGHBORS ARE HERE! I'D BETTER HIDE!


IT'D BE NICE IF I WERE HUMAN
AT TIMES LIKE THIS
...WITH NO WORRIES.
THEN I'D BE ABLE TO ENJOY MY AFTERNOON TEA OUTSIDE
WHERE THE SIGHT OF A DUCK DRINKING TEA IS CONSIDERED NORMAL!
THE TRUTH IS...
I OFTEN DREAM OF A WORLD,

NO! YOU CAN'T EAT THESE!
WOOF
PANT PANT
YOU'RE BACK EARLY.
WOOF
ISN'T MASTER KEVIN ALWAYS TELLING YOU THAT?!
THEY'RE BAD FOR YOU!
YOU CAN'T EAT ONIONS, EITHER!
THESE COOKIES HAVE CHOCOLATE IN THEM!
WAIT HERE A MINUTE
I'LL GET YOU SOME CREAM
OOPS
CREAM
CLACK


OH, RIGHT! I HAVE TO VISIT MY FRIENDS AND GIVE THEM SOUVENIRS FROM MY TRIP.
CLATTER
PANT PANT
I'M GOING OUT FOR A BIT, CLIFF.
TAKE CARE OF THE HOUSE, OKAY?
THE LAUNDRY WILL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL I GET BACK.
Busy busy

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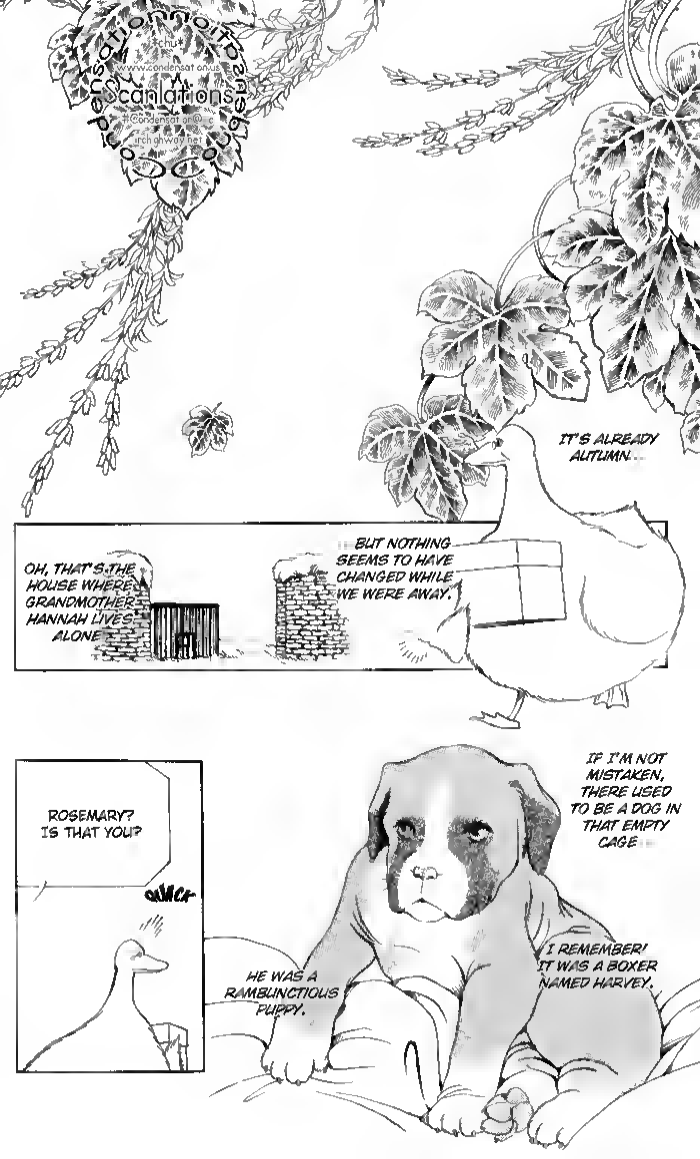
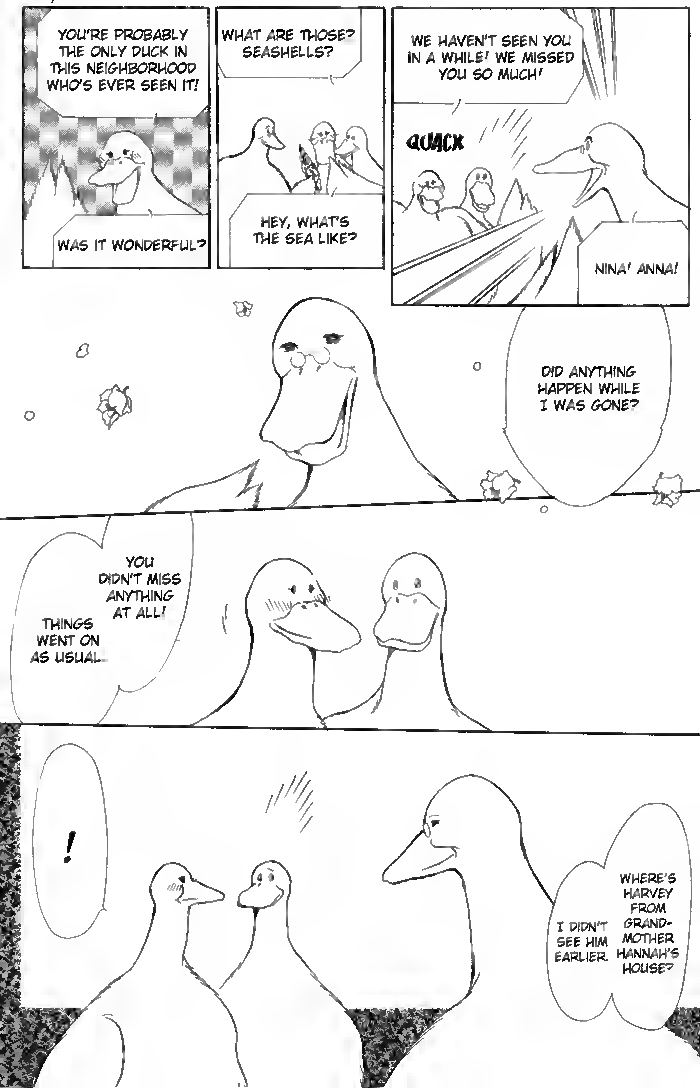
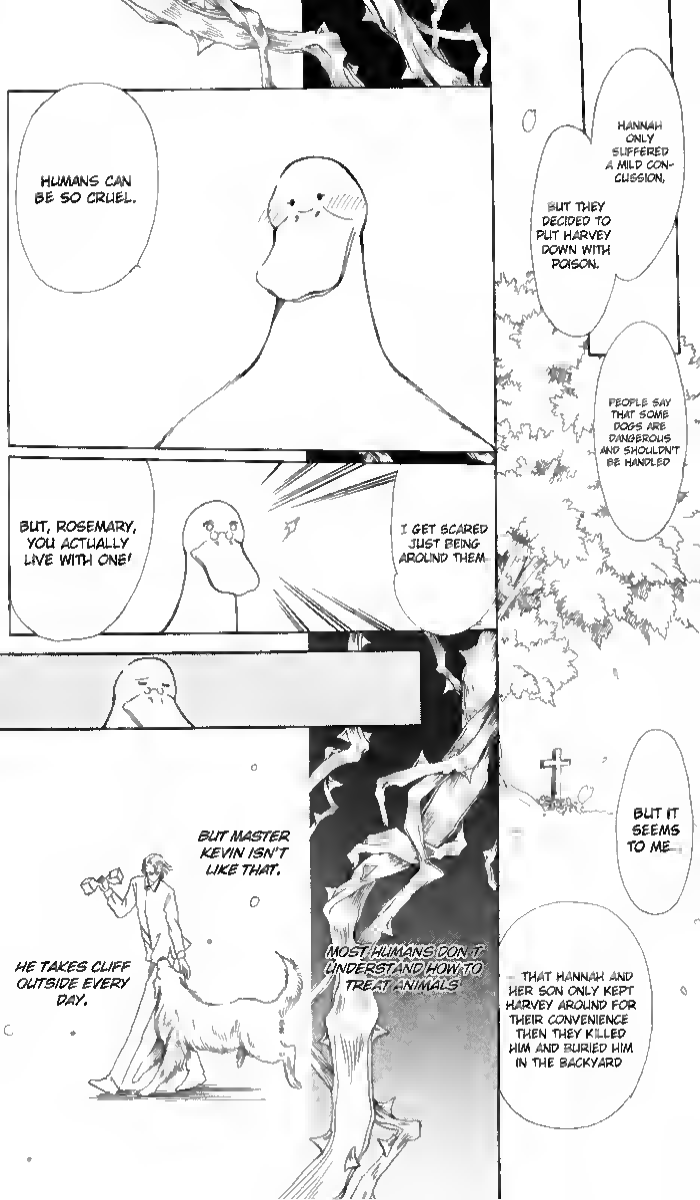

IT'S ALREADY AUTUMN...
BUT NOTHING SEEMS TO HAVE CHANGED WHILE WE WERE AWAY.
OH, THAT'S THE HOUSE WHERE GRANDMOTHER HANNAH LIVES ALONE
ROSEMARY? IS THAT YOU?
QUACK
IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN, THERE USED TO BE A DOG IN THAT EMPTY CAGE...
I REMEMBER! IT WAS A BOXER NAMED HARVEY.
HE WAS A RAMBUNCTIOUS PUPPY.


YOU'RE PROBABLY THE ONLY DUCK IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD WHO'S EVER SEEN IT!
WAS IT WONDERFUL?
WHAT ARE THOSE? SEASHELLS?
HEY, WHAT'S THE SEA LIKE?
WE HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN A WHILE! WE MISSED YOU SO MUCH!
QUACK
NINA! ANNA!
DID ANYTHING HAPPEN WHILE I WAS GONE?
YOU DIDN'T MISS ANYTHING AT ALL!
THINGS WENT ON AS USUAL.
!
WHERE'S HARVEY FROM GRANDMOTHER HANNAH'S HOUSE?
I DIDN'T SEE HIM EARLIER.

AND SO, SHE NEVER TOOK HARVEY OUT TO WALK HIM.
BUT, HANNAH HAS WEAK KNEES, SO SHE COULDN'T MOVE MUCH.
ORIGINALLY, HANNAH'S SON THOUGHT IT WAS DANGEROUS FOR HER TO LIVE ALONE, SO HE BOUGHT HARVEY TO PROTECT HER.
HUMANS TEND TO TREAT THEM DIFFERENTLY
A "GUARD DOG" IS DIFFERENT FROM A "PET DOG"
HARVEY WAS CONFINED IN HIS CAGE EVERY DAY
AND WAS ONLY GIVEN FOOD AND WATER.
THAT IT BROKE MY HEART JUST TO SEE HIM.
HE ALWAYS LOOKED SO SAD
HE WAS...
PUT TO SLEEP.

AHHH!
WOOF
CREAK
WHEN IT WAS TIME TO TAKE HIM TO GET HIS SHOTS,
HARVEY GOT SO EXCITED THAT HE JUMPED ON HANNAH AND ACCIDENTALLY HURT HER.
HOWEVER, HARVEY WAS KEPT IN A CAGE, WITH AN OWNER WHO COULDN'T TAKE CARE OF HIM PROPERLY.
BOXERS ARE BRED TO BE HUNTING DOGS.
EVEN AS PUPPIES, THEY HAVE GREAT STRENGTH.


HUMANS CAN BE SO CRUEL.
BUT, ROSEMARY, YOU ACTUALLY LIVE WITH ONE!
I GET SCARED JUST BEING AROUND THEM.
BUT MASTER KEVIN ISN'T LIKE THAT.
HE TAKES CLIFF OUTSIDE EVERY DAY.
MOST HUMANS DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW TO TREAT ANIMALS.
HANNAH ONLY SUFFERED A MILD CONCUSSION.
BUT THEY DECIDED TO PUT HARVEY DOWN WITH POISON.
PEOPLE SAY THAT SOME DOGS ARE DANGEROUS AND SHOULDN'T BE HANDLED
BUT IT SEEMS TO ME...
THAT HANNAH AND HER SON ONLY KEPT HARVEY AROUND FOR THEIR CONVENIENCE THEN THEY KILLED HIM AND BURIED HIM IN THE BACKYARD

WITH LARGE DOGS SUCH AS BOXERS, GERMAN SHEPHERDS, HUSKIES, AND COLLIES,
SOME OWNERS WILL GO SO FAR AS TO TIE THEM TO THEIR BIKES TO GIVE THEM A CHANCE TO RUN.
IF THE DOGS DON'T GET ENOUGH EXERCISE, THEY BECOME RESTLESS.
HE PAYS EXTRA ATTENTION TO CLIFF'S HEALTH...
BECAUSE HE KNOWS THAT IT'S IMPORTANT.
BUT ABOVE ALL ELSE, THEY NEED LOVE.
ANIMALS AREN'T JUST CUTE CREATURES FOR HUMANS TO LIVE WITH!
THEY NEED TO GET ENOUGH FOOD, EXERCISE, AND SLEEP.
THEY REQUIRE A GREAT DEAL OF CARE AND ATTENTION THAT INCLUDES MANY DIRTY AND TROUBLESOME TASKS.

See you, Rosemary. Goodbye!
SHUH
EH?
A SEEING-EYE DOG?
A SEEING-EYE DOG!
AH! A SEEING-EYE DOG!
Cool!
He's so cute
RUSTLE

HE'S SO DOCILE, AND HE DOESN'T BITE.
WHAT'S HIS NAME?
NO, CHILDREN! YOU SHOULDN'T PET THAT DOG SO FREELY!
HEY, CAN WE PLAY WITH YOUR DOG FOR A WHILE?
panics
WH-WHAT SHOULD I DO?
HEY, EVERYONE, COME LOOK! THERE'S A SEEING-EYE DOG!!
EHHH?
UM, I'M SORRY, BUT THIS DOG IS IN THE MIDDLE OF AN IMPORTANT JOB
NO!
FLAP-FLAP

YOU SEE?
HURRY! GO HOME!
FLAP FLAP
QUACK QUACK
A DUCK!
OUCH!
AHHH!!
QUACK
QUACK
GO HOME RIGHT NOW!
QUACK

TAKE THIS!
GRAB
Grrr
WHERE IS IT?
OW! THAT DUCK BIT ME ON THE LEG!
WHAM
!

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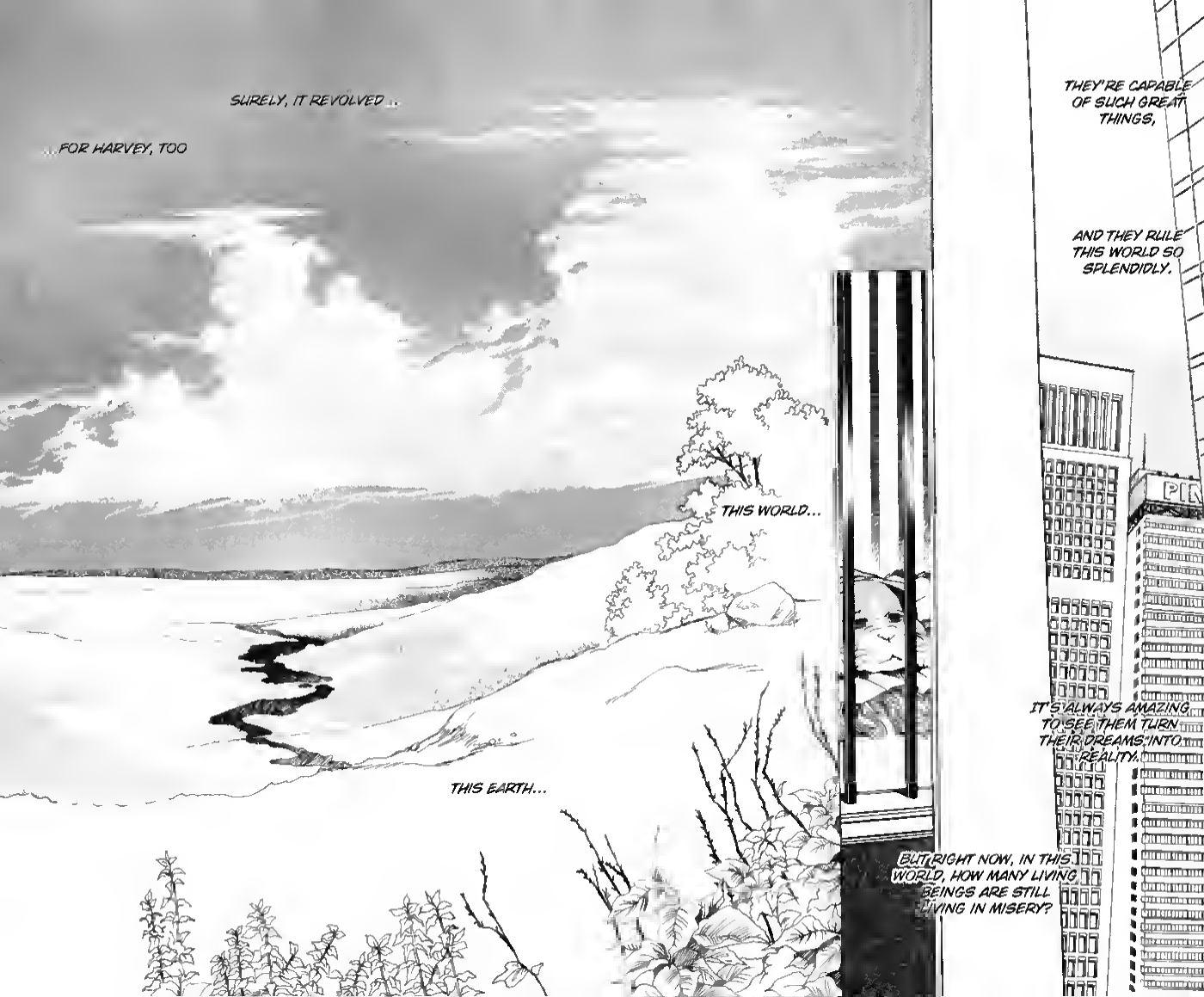
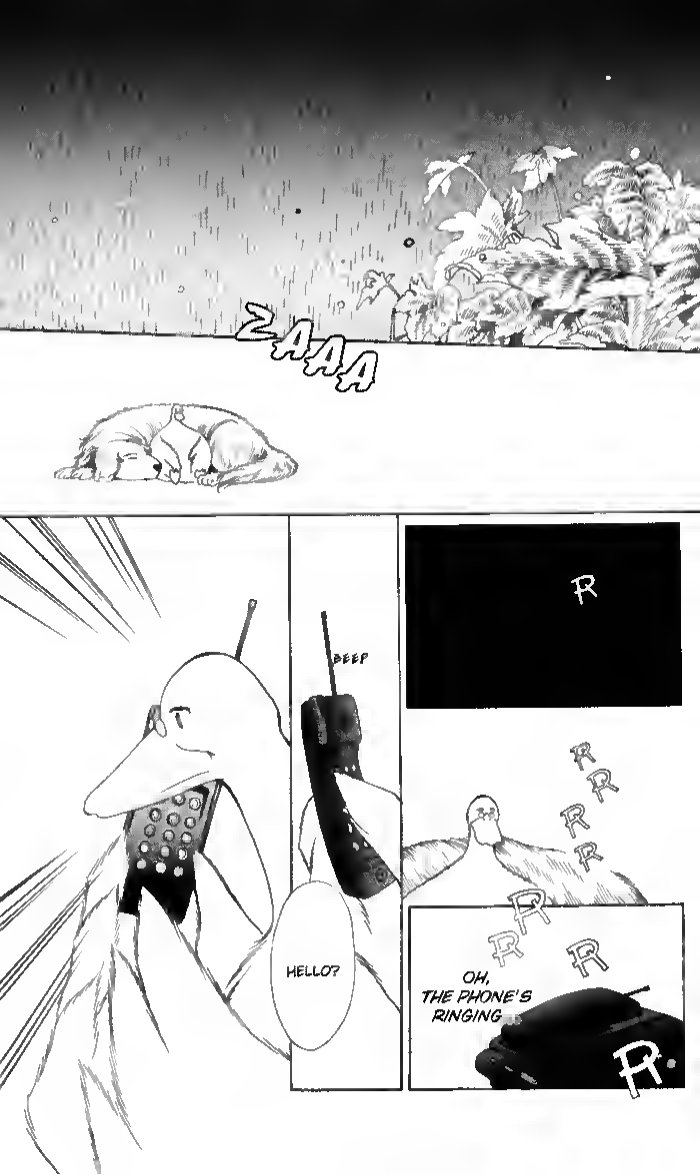
Beat it up ?
Wat up duck!
RAIN?!
LOOKS LIKE I SPRAINED MY WING...
PLOP
DRIP
DROP
OUCH
SIGH
pant
pant
Sigh
WHAT A TERRIBLE EXPERIENCE

CREAK
PLOP
OH, NO! THE LAUNDRY!
THE LAUNDRY IS RUINED
startled
HA HA
STOP THAT. IT TICKLES
OH, IT'S YOU, CLIFF
EVERY-THING SUDDENLY WENT WRONG TODAY

HUMANS CAN BE SO CRUEL.
LET'S PLAY WITH IT AND BEAT IT UP!
SHIVE
GRAB
...AND FRIGHTENING.
HUMANS CAN BE SCARY...


SURELY, IT REVOLVED ...
... FOR HARVEY, TOO
THIS WORLD...
THIS EARTH...
THEY'RE CAPABLE OF SUCH GREAT THINGS,
AND THEY RULE THIS WORLD SO SPLENDIDLY.
IT'S ALWAYS AMAZING TO SEE THEM TURN THEIR DREAMS INTO REALITY.
BUT RIGHT NOW, IN THIS WORLD, HOW MANY LIVING BEINGS ARE STILL LIVING IN MISERY?

WHAT KIND OF DREAMS DID HE HAVE INSIDE THAT CAGE?
WHAT KIND OF DREAMS...?


ZAAAA
BEEP
HELLO?
R
RRRRRR
OH, THE PHONE'S RINGING
R

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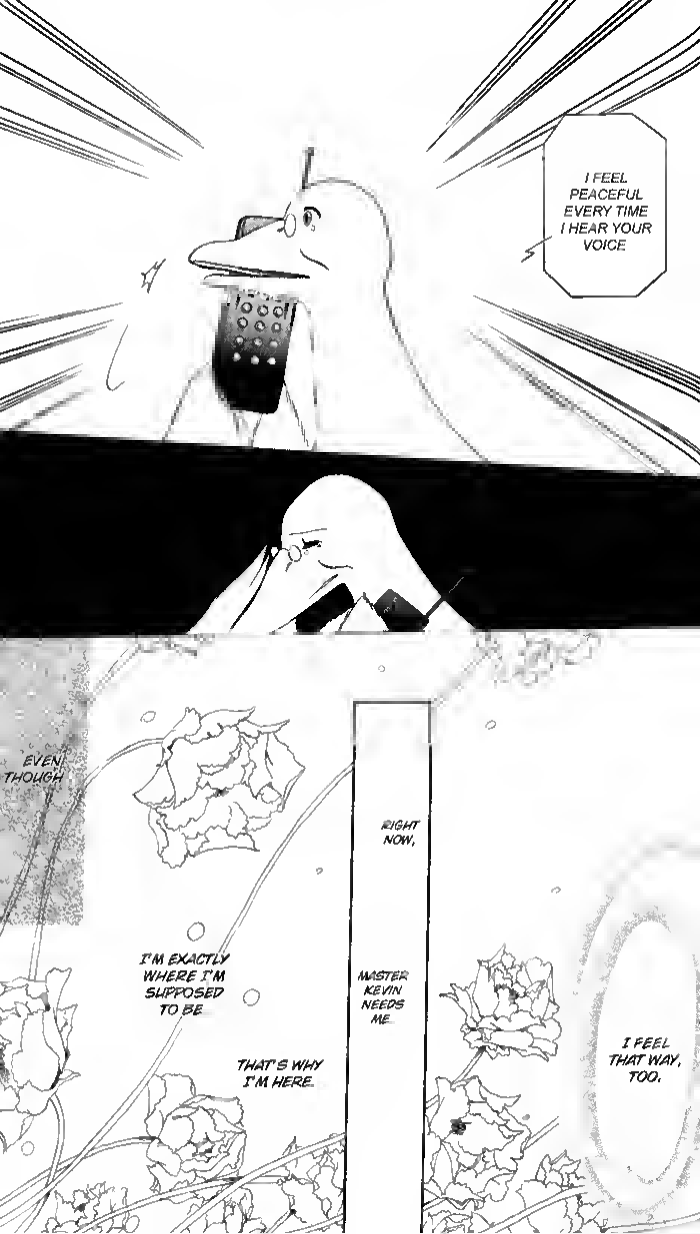
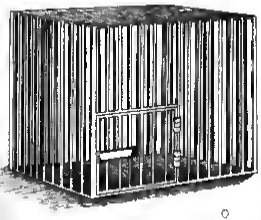

I FEEL PEACEFUL EVERY TIME I HEAR YOUR VOICE
EVEN THOUGH I
I'M EXACTLY WHERE I'M SUPPOSED TO BE
THAT'S WHY I'M HERE.
RIGHT NOW,
MASTER KEVIN NEEDS ME.
I FEEL THAT WAY, TOO.

...TO HOLD ME HERE FOR NOW
THIS IS ENOUGH...
...WE'LL HAVE TO PART WAYS...
...EVENTUALLY.

NO...
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?!
NOTHING HAPPENED
NOTHING AT ALL
UNLESS YOU WANT TO HEAR...
HOW OUR NEIGHBOR'S DOG DIED...
HOW I WAS CHASED AROUND BY KIDS TODAY.
...AND HOW I RUINED YOUR LAUNDRY.
NONE OF THESE THINGS...

...SHOULD CONCERN YOU AT ALL...

...SINCE THEY HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH HUMANS.



NOTHING HAPPENED AT ALL.

BEYOND THE ENDLESS DREAM // FIN
BROUGHT TO YOU BY CONDENSATION /*CHU*

Fredward-shi no Ahiru

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chu

天国に至る門
The Gates Leading to Heaven

The Gates Leading to Heaven

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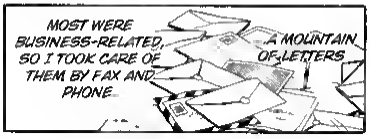
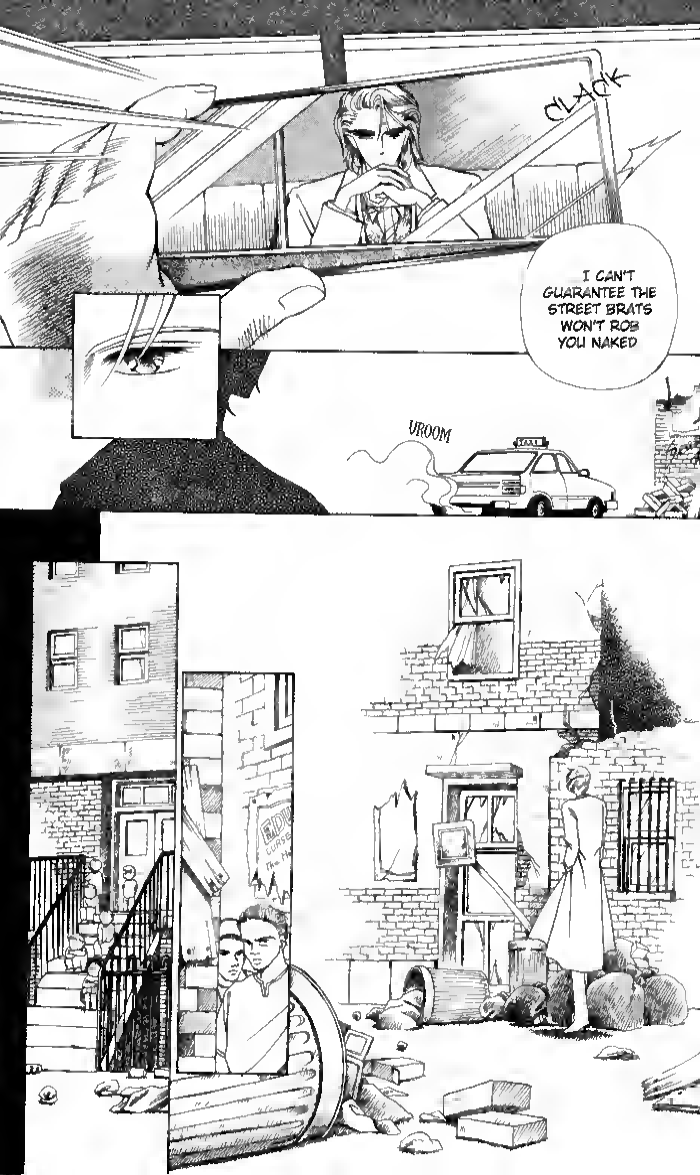
I LIED TO ROSEMARY.
flutter
YOU'RE GOING TO THE CITY?
A BUSINESS LETTER ARRIVED?

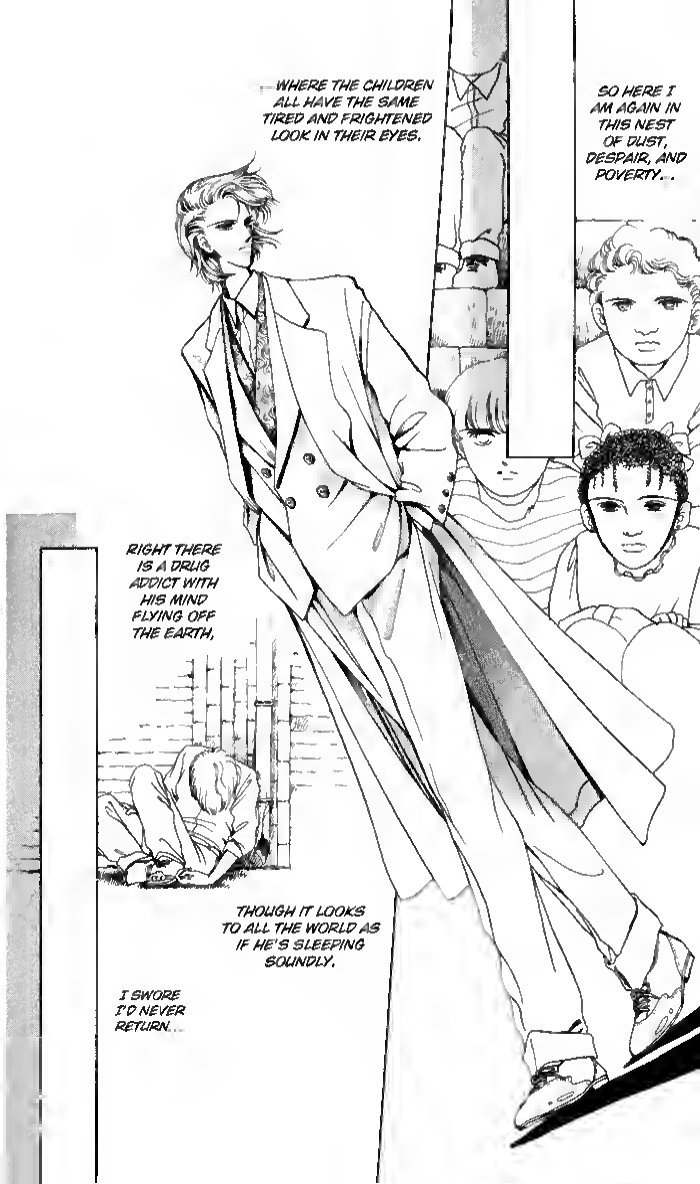


AFTER BEING AWAY FROM HOME FOR THREE MONTHS I WAS GREETED WITH

Scanlations

AN OLD FRIEND OF MINE...
WE'RE HERE MISTER.
...FROM THE STREET GANG!
THIS STREET HERE IS DANGER-OUS.
YOU'RE NOT FROM AROUND HERE, ARE YA?
WITH YOUR NICE APPEAR-ANCE...


CLACK
I CAN'T GUARANTEE THE STREET BRATS WON'T ROB YOU NAKED
VROOM
TAXI


...WHERE THE CHILDREN ALL HAVE THE SAME TIRED AND FRIGHTENED LOOK IN THEIR EYES.
SO HERE I AM AGAIN IN THIS NEST OF DUST, DESPAIR, AND POVERTY. .
RIGHT THERE IS A DRUG ADDICT WITH HIS MIND FLYING OFF THE EARTH,
THOUGH IT LOOKS TO ALL THE WORLD AS IF HE'S SLEEPING SOUNDLY.
I SWORE I'D NEVER RETURN...

...SO WHAT AM I DOING HERE?
IF ONLY I HADN'T OPENED THAT LETTER!
THEN I NEVER WOULD HAVE HAD TO REVISIT THIS WORLD!
IT'S EVEN BLEAKER THAN IT WAS WHEN I LIVED HERE—
...BUT THAT WAS 17 YEARS AGO!

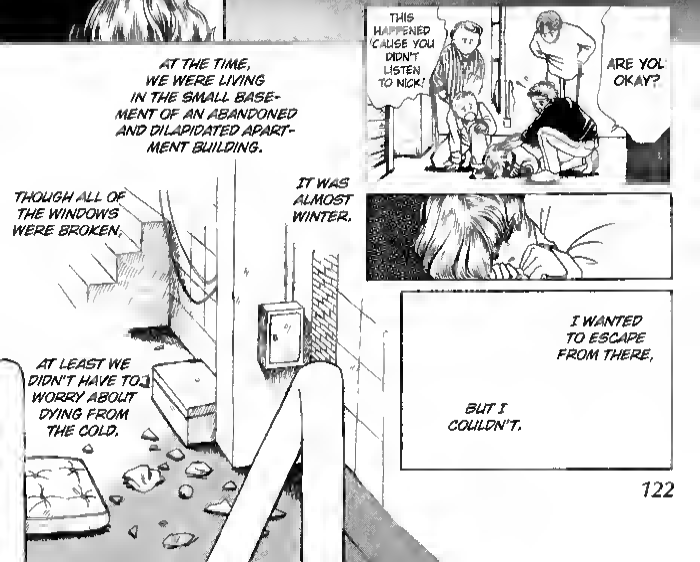
WHAT'RE YOU DOIN' ?!
HEY, KEVIN!
KEVIN!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, MATCH? CAN'T YOU TELL?

IF YOU GET CAUGHT BY THE GANG MEMBERS AROUND HERE,
THEY'LL BEAT YOU UP FOR SURE!
IDIOT! YOU CAN'T DO THAT!
I'M TRYING TO FIND FOOD FOR OUR DINNER
THERE ARE PROBABLY LEFT-OVERS IN THE TRASH
LISTEN, KEVIN. THIS ISN'T OUR TERRITORY!
I'VE TOLD YOU BEFORE NOT TO BE A PAIN TO HIM!
You know he's our leader!
DON'T CAUSE TROUBLE FOR NICK!
TEN DAYS HAVE PASSED SINCE I RAN AWAY AND STARTED LIVING IN THE CITY.
NICK AND HIS GANG TOOK ME IN WHEN I WAS CLOSE TO STARVATION

PUNCH
CRASH
CRASH
STOP, NICK!
CRACK
JUST TRY THAT AGAIN, NEW-BIE
YOU THINK YOU CAN GIVE ME MOLDY BREAD FROM THE GARBAGE TO EAT?

IT'S BETTER THAN STEALING.
I'M GONNA BREAK YOUR ARM!
YOU'RE GOING OVER-BOARD, NICK!
OW!
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE, KID?!
ARE YOU TELLING ME WHAT TO DO?!
SHUT UP!
SLAM
PUNCH
PUNCH

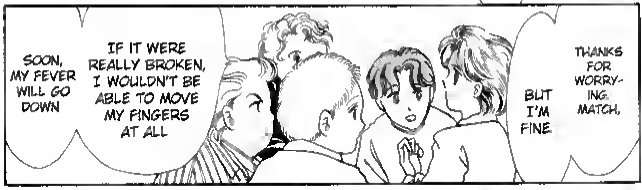
thump
...THEN GET THE HELL OUT!
LISTEN UP, SHORTY!
IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT HERE...


AT THE TIME, WE WERE LIVING IN THE SMALL BASEMENT OF AN ABANDONED AND DILAPIDATED APARTMENT BUILDING.
THIS HAPPENED 'CAUSE YOU DIDN'T LISTEN TO NICK!
ARE YOU OKAY?
IT WAS ALMOST WINTER.
THOUGH ALL OF THE WINDOWS WERE BROKEN,
AT LEAST WE DIDN'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT DYING FROM THE COLD.
I WANTED TO ESCAPE FROM THERE,
BUT I COULDN'T.

YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO TELL THAT MUCH, PEA BRAIN
BUT, THE FEVER.
IT'S NOT BROKEN JUST SPRAINED
THE NEWBIE'S ARM LOOKS BROKEN!
BAM
NICK, WE'VE GOT TROUBLE!
YOU KICKED HIM TOO MANY TIMES
LISTEN, MATCH. DON'T MIND THE NEWBIE. IF HE TRIES ANYTHING FUNNY, JUST BEAT HIM UP.
HE'S "SPECIAL."
DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
HE'S DIFFERENT FROM US.

OW

SEE?
IT'S MOVING OKAY.
LOOK!


SOON, MY FEVER WILL GO DOWN
IF IT WERE REALLY BROKEN, I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO MOVE MY FINGERS AT ALL
BUT I'M FINE.
THANKS FOR WORRYING, MATCH.

WHAT?

KEVIN SURE KNOWS A LOT
THAT'S WHAT'S THEY CALL BEING EDUCATED, HUH?
MAYBE THAT'S WHY NICK SAID KEVIN WAS SPECIAL.

NICK THINKS YOU'RE SPECIAL.

THAT'S NOT TRUE ALL OF US ARE THE SAME
WE'RE ALL HOMELESS, RIGHT?

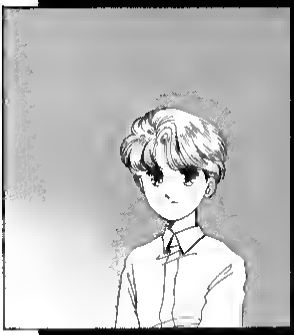
KEVIN, WHY DID YOU RUN AWAY FROM HOME?
UM..
WHY...?
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I'M SENDING TO COLLEGE!
WALTER! YOU'RE AT THE TOP OF YOUR CLASS AGAIN?
DO WALTER'S CHORES, TOO!
KEVIN, WHAT ARE YOU DOING? TAKE CARE OF YOUR SIBLINGS!
GO HELP WITH THE FARM!
SLAP
YOU STUPID BOY! WHAT ARE YOU READING A BOOK FOR?

WHY IS WALTER THE ONLY ONE LOVED..?

THOUGH I'M PART OF A FAMILY, I STILL HAVE THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE THE WAY I WANT TO LIVE.

OH, WAS YOUR MOM A HOOKER?
MY POP'S IN THE MOB
THEN MAYBE YOUR MOM WAS DRUNK ALL THE TIME, LIKE MINE
She'd always take the money for food and rent to buy booze
IT WAS NOTHING LIKE THAT! MY PARENTS ARE NORMAL!
In jail?!
THAT'S NOT IT.
SAME AS MY OLD MAN!
I KNOW! YOUR DAD'S IN JAIL, RIGHT?
BUT WHY WOULD YOU RUN AWAY FROM A NORMAL HOME?

TO SURVIVE AT HOME...



BACK THEN, I COULDN'T GIVE THEM AN ANSWER

THEIR EYES WERE TOO EARNEST...

I REALLY WANTED TO TELL THEM THE TRUTH, THOUGH.

...I WOULD HAVE HAD TO KILL MY TRUE FEELINGS AND DENY MY TRUE SELF.

WE'VE GOT ANOTHER NEWBIE.
HEY EVERYONE LISTEN UP!
MARK LIBER, FIVE YEARS OLD
FIVE YEARS OLD?!
HE'S THE SAME AGE AS MY LITTLE SISTER!
Translations
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ESPECIALLY WHEN THERE'S ALREADY ONE KID WHO CAN'T EVEN LIFT A FINGER
THAT'S RIGHT! GETTING FOOD IS HARD ENOUGH AS IT IS!
ISN'T THAT ONE TOO MANY?
THIS MAKES EIGHT OF US
WAIT, NICK.
YOU SURE IT'S OKAY?
WELL, JACKIE?
WHO LOOKS OUT FOR ALL OF YOU?
I HATE NICK!

...WITH HIS BRUTE STRENGTH...
HE JUST THREATENS EVERYONE...
...AND THEN HE TAKES THE SEAT AS THE LEADER!
SO I WANT YOU ALL TO GIVE HIM SPECIAL TREATMENT!
WHAT?!
BY THE WAY,
MARK'S FROM THE ORPHAN-AGE.
HE'S AN ILLEGITI-MATE CHILD
HUH?!
HE IS?!
ORPHANAGE? ILLEGITMATE CHILD?

SPECIAL TREATMENT?!
NICK ISN'T GOING TO HURT THAT KID, TOO, IS HE?
MARK,
DO YOU LIKE CHOCOLATE?

WHAT THE HECK?!
WHY AM I THE ONLY ONE BEING BULLIED AROUND HERE?!
WHY DID NICK TAKE ME IN ANYWAY?
SLAM
KEVIN?!
ONCE WINTER IS OVER, I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE!

WHOOSH
IT SURE IS FREEZING TONIGHT
DOES ANYONE HAVE ANY BOOZE?
YOU KNUCKLE-HEAD. HOW CAN WE POSSIBLY HAVE ANY?
HEY, THAT NEW KID, MARK...
HE DOESN'T TALK AT ALL, HUH?
MAYBE HE'S MUTE...
HEY! NICK TAUGHT ME HOW TO USE A KNIFE TODAY!

HE'S BOUND TO RISE TO THE TOP
THERE'S NO DOUBT HE'LL BE A GREAT HUSTLER!
HE'LL RIDE IN THOSE IMPORTED CARS, LIVE IN A MANSION, AND—
NICK REALLY TAUGHT YOU? THAT'S RARE!
WOW, AWESOME!
HE'S TOO COOL!
EVERYONE KNOWS WHO HE IS AROUND HERE
KEVIN
SHUT UP, ALL OF YOU!
SLAP
HE'S STILL JUST A STRANGER!
NICK THIS, NICK THAT. WHAT DID HE EVER DO FOR YOU GUYS?
I CAN'T STAND HIM!

DON'T YOU EVER ...
...TALK ABOUT NICK LIKE THAT AGAIN.
WHERE DO YOU THINK HE SLEEPS EVERY DAY?
EVEN NOW HE'S OUT IN THE COLD GUARDING THE FRONT ENTRANCE!
HE PROTECTS US FROM THE POLICE
AND OTHER GANGS THAT WANT TO TAKE OVER OUR TERRI-TORY
HE'S LIKE...
A PARENT TO ALL OF US!

GRAB
Jeez.
Fine.
Ah...
TURNS OVER
I'M GOING TO BED!
YOU'RE WRONG!
HE'S NO PARENT!
I DON'T BELONG HERE!
START

Humph!
WHAT, YOU TEACHER'S PET! STOP STARING AT ME!
SO, YOU WANT TO BE A WRITER?
KEVIN... KEVIN...

"THAT'S RIGHT, GRANDMA."
"BUT YOU HAVE TO KEEP IT A SECRET BECAUSE DAD WILL GET MAD AND MAKE ME WORK ON THE FARM."
"HOW DELIGHTFUL! YOU'RE JUST LIKE YOUR GRANDPA WITH YOUR LOVE OF BOOKS."
"I LIVE NEARBY, SO IT SHOULDN'T BE A PROBLEM. LEAVE IT TO ME TO EXPLAIN TO YOUR FATHER."
"FROM NOW ON, STOP BY ON YOUR WAY HOME FROM SCHOOL, SO YOU CAN BORROW YOUR GRANDPA'S BOOKS."
WHY DID YOU HAVE TO DIE, GRANDMA?
YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE WHO UNDERSTOOD ME!

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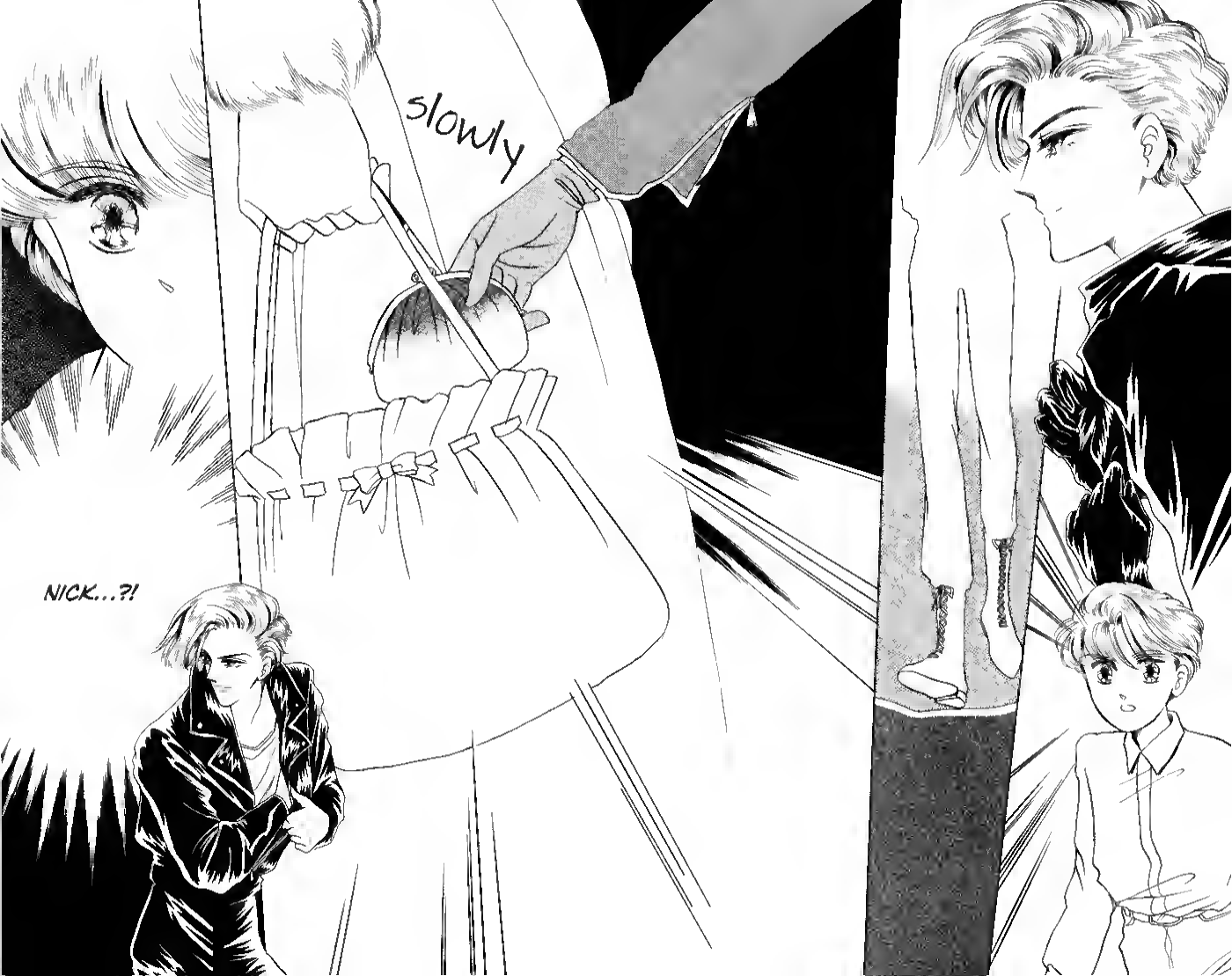
WE'RE GONNA GET SOME CASH IN THIS STATION TODAY
WE'LL DO IT THE USUAL WAY
THE HAND-OFF WILL START WITH MATCH.
FOLLOWED BY JACKIE, SAM, AND THEN GEORGE.
WE'LL MEET AT COLONIAL PARK IN 30 MINUTES.
WILLY AND MARK WILL STAND WATCH
THAT OLD LADY'S OUR MARK!
WHAT'S HE PLANNING TO DO?
HUH?
HEY, NEWBIE, YOU'RE COMING WITH ME!

SPREAD OUT!
grab
WATCH CLOSELY, NEWBIE!
I WANT YOU TO MEMORIZE EVERYTHING I DO.


slowly
NICK...?!

SNATCH
hands
ha ha ha
WE CAN SLEEP WARMLY AT NIGHT
WITH THIS, WE CAN BUY BOOZE
YOU WERE GREAT, NICK!
MARK! IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WANT?
IT WAS WRONG
PIECE OF CAKE!
THAT OLD LADY WAS RICH!

WHAT WE DID WAS WRONG!
DASH
KEVIN?!
WAIT!
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
OH, NO!
STOP

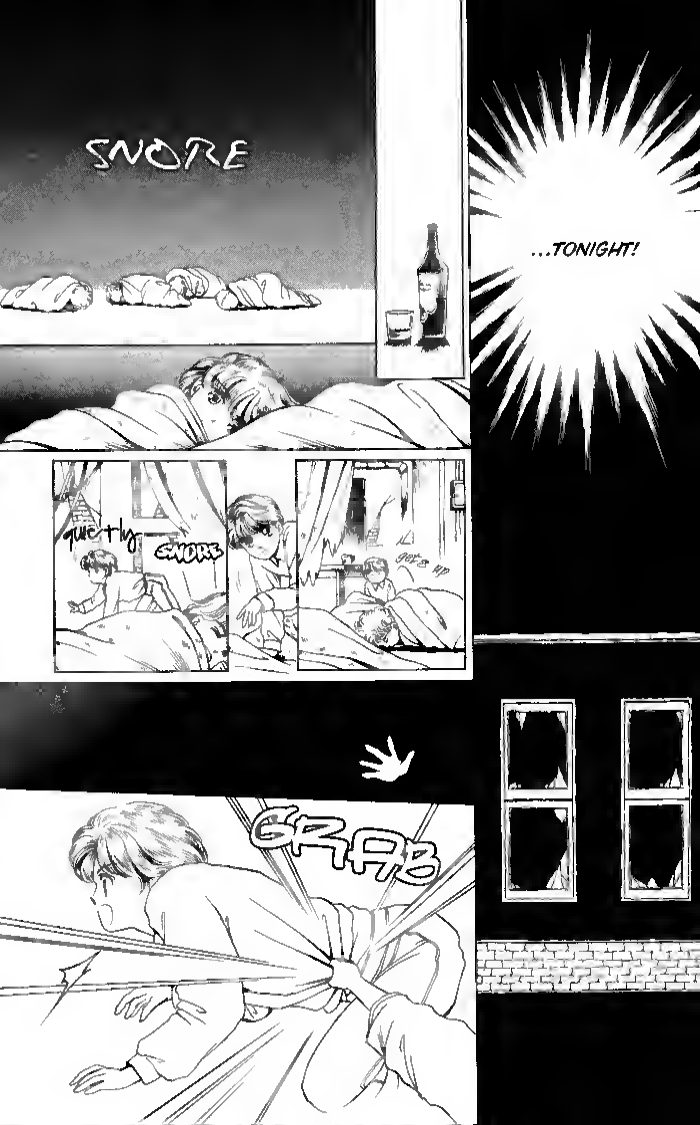
SLAM
...
NICK!
WHY CAN'T EVERYONE JUST WORK FOR MONEY?
WHY CAN'T WE GET HONEST JOBS?
WE'D BE BETTER OFF IN AN ORPHANAGE THAN HAVING TO STEAL!
HUH?
WE'D BE BETTER OFF IN AN ORPHAN-AGE, YOU SAY?

COME HERE!
MARK!
DON'T YOU GET IT?
IT'S NOT THAT HE CAN'T TALK! HE JUST DOESN'T WANT TO!
DO YOU KNOW WHY HE'S LIKE THIS?
IT'S 'CAUSE NO ONE HAS EVER CARED FOR HIM!
AN ORPHANAGE IS *THAT* SORT OF PLACE!
IF MARK HAD GROWN WEAK AND DIED,
THEY WOULD'VE JUST GIVEN HIS ROOM TO A NEW KID THE NEXT DAY

DON'T TALK ABOUT IT SO FREELY
WHEN YOU KNOW NOTHING ABOUT IT!
PUN
CH
BUT I...!
KICK
KICK
THAT'S TOO MUCH!
NICK! STOP ALREADY!
PUSH
PUFF
PUFF

I'LL KILL YOU, NICK!
I'LL DO IT.
ONE DAY
I'LL BE WAITING
GO AHEAD AND TRY

IF YOU'RE EVER ATTACKED,
GO AFTER THE BIGGEST AND STRONGEST PERSON
AND KNOCK HIM DOWN WITH ONE SHOT!
IF YOU DON'T, YOU'RE DEAD!
THAT'S THE RULE AROUND HERE
GET USED TO PAIN
BE STRONG
THIS PLACE...
GUH!
WHAM
...
I'LL ESCAPE...


SNORE
...TONIGHT!
quiet!
SNORE
GRAB

UH...
GULP!
I-I'm...
MARK?!
Used to taking care of his younger siblings
MARK, THE TOILET'S OVER HERE
!!!
Huh?
THERE DON'T WANT YOU GETTING A COLD NOW.
I CAN'T ESCAPE UNTIL MARK GOES BACK TO SLEEP
GUESS I HAVE NO CHOICE
YAWN
Why, me?
DON'T FORGET TO WASH YOUR HANDS
PAT
PAT

BACK IN THE ORPHAN-AGE,
MARK?
HE ACTUALLY SPOKE?!
I USED TO DREAM
...OF SOMEONE CARING FOR ME...

I WANTED SOMEONE TO TUCK ME IN...
...AND KISS ME ON THE CHEEK
...AND HOLD ME...
BUT I KNEW THAT WOULD NEVER HAPPEN
...'CAUSE I'M ILLEGITI-MATE
THERE WERE TWO KINDS OF KIDS IN THE ORPHAN-AGE.
ILLEGITI-MATE KIDS AND UNWANTED KIDS...

I WAS AT THE ORPHANAGE FROM THE TIME I WAS A BABY
BUT KIDS LIKE ME COULDN'T LEAVE UNTIL SOMEONE DECIDED TO KEEP US
THE UNWANTED KIDS ONLY HAD TO STAY IN THE ORPHANAGE FOR A WHILE.
THEY SAID THAT NO ONE WOULD WANT A KID WHO'D BEEN THERE THAT LONG
BEFORE SOMEONE EVENTUALLY CAME TO GET THEM.
PROBLEMS? LIKE HOW YOU LOST THE WILL TO SPEAK?
I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND
THEY SAID I'D BE "ISOLATED"
'CAUSE I'D HAVE PROBLEMS ADJUSTING
SWEET DREAMS
GOOD NIGHT MARK
...SO I WENT WITH HIM.
NICK SAID HE WANTED ME...

...WHY NICK SAID I WAS SPECIAL.
THAT WAS WHEN I REALIZED..
SNORE
MARK PROBABLY WASN'T THE ONLY ONE HERE...
...WHO GREW UP IN THAT KIND OF ENVIRONMENT
I THINK THEY'RE THE ONES WHO ARE SPECIAL.
-NONE OF THEM HAD PARENTS OR FAMILIES, SO WHO WOULD TRUST AND HIRE THEM?
NO ONE SHOULD HAVE TO LIVE THIS WAY...

stare
CHIRP CHIRP
CHIRP
MAYBE I SHOULD STAY WITH THEM A LITTLE LONGER..
GRROOWWL
I'M HUNGRY ..
rumble
BUT HERE
..I'M THE SPECIAL ONE

BUT MATCH, DON'T YOU ALWAYS SAY THAT YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING ON AN EMPTY STOMACH?!
LISTEN KEVIN. THIS ISN'T OUR TERRI-TORY!
YAY! FRENCH FRIES!
Lucky!
WHAT'RE YOU DOIN' HERE?!
HEY!
THIS IS OUR TERRI-TORY

HE'S ONE OF NICK'S BRATS!
HEY, PUNCH
OH, NO!
KERAACK
A TRESPASSER, HUH?
CAN WE?
THEN WE CAN'T LET IM GO,
LISTEN, KEVIN!
IF YOU DON'T, YOU'RE DEAD.
GO AFTER THE BIGGEST AND STRONGEST PERSON!
WHAT SHOULD I DO..?!
WHA--?!
OKAY... HERE GOES NOTHING!!
THUP

IF YOU DON'T
GET YOUR HANDS OFF ME!
YOU'RE GONNA GET IT!
Grab
SWISH
HWOP
WHAM
WAH!
HIT 'IM SOME MORE, PUNCH!
ha ha ha
THE KID HAD THE NERVE TO TALK BACK!
LET HIM GO,
OR...
...I'LL KILL YOU.
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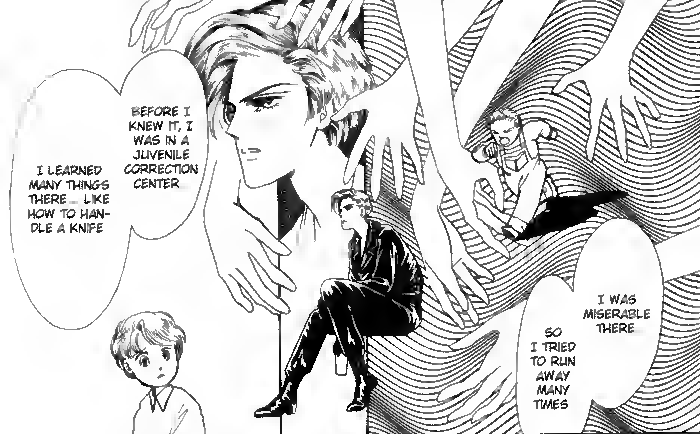
NICK GALLAGHER!
IT'S NICK!
BY ALL MEANS I—
WERE YOU GUYS HAVING FUN WITH MY LITTLE BROTHER HERE?
click
NICK!
NICK!

AH!
HMM, WHAT SHOULD I DO?
Howard
twist
WAHHH!
SHIT!
SWISH
SHOULD I SLICE OFF YOUR EARS?
OR GOUGE OUT YOUR EYES?

slump
KEVIN!
UH...
RUN!
KEVIN, YOU OKAY?! HANG IN THERE!
faint
SO HUNGRY...

DON'T TELL THE GUYS, 'KAY?
'KAY
HERE EAT IT WHILE IT'S HOT.
IF ONLY I'D HAD A KNIFE, I WOULDN'T HAVE LOST THAT FIGHT.
OR ELSE YOU COULD LOSE YOUR LIFE
ONLY USE A KNIFE WHEN YOU'RE READY TO GET HURT YOURSELF
STILL, YOU FOLLOWED MY ADVICE
AND ATTACKED THE BIGGEST GUY FIRST

YOU'RE STRONG, KEVIN
THAT'S NOT TRUE
I WAS REALLY SCARED
...AND WEAK.
YOU WERE RAISED IN A GOOD HOME, RIGHT?
SO YOU MUST BE A KID WHO GREW UP WITH LOVE.
IT TAKES STRENGTH TO GO AFTER WHAT YOU WANT.
I GREW UP IN A NORMAL HOME, TOO...
...I EVEN HAD A WHITE DOG FOR A PET
WHEN I WAS EIGHT,
MY PARENTS DIED.
AND I WAS SENT TO AN ORPHAN-AGE


I LEARNED MANY THINGS THERE... LIKE HOW TO HANDLE A KNIFE
BEFORE I KNEW IT, I WAS IN A JUVENILE CORRECTION CENTER
I WAS MISERABLE THERE
SO I TRIED TO RUN AWAY MANY TIMES
KEVIN, YOU ALSO HAVE TO LEARN MANY THINGS FROM NOW ON

STEALING CARS AND DRIVING...
FIGHTING AND KNIFE-HANDLING TECHNIQUES,
CRACKING OPEN CASH REGISTERS, AND OPENING DOORS WITHOUT KEYS...
SO IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO ME...

NICK, YOU...
...YOU'LL BE HERE TO PROTECT THEM.
THINGS WON'T STAY LIKE THIS FOREVER. SOMEDAY, WE'LL ALL BE FREE
BUT UNTIL THEN ...
YOUR FRIENDS ARE YOUR FAMILY.
YEAH. I'LL TRY.
I'LL TRY...
UNDER-STAND?
IF I'M NOT AROUND FOR SOME REA-SON,
YOU'LL HAVE TO TAKE CHARGE.
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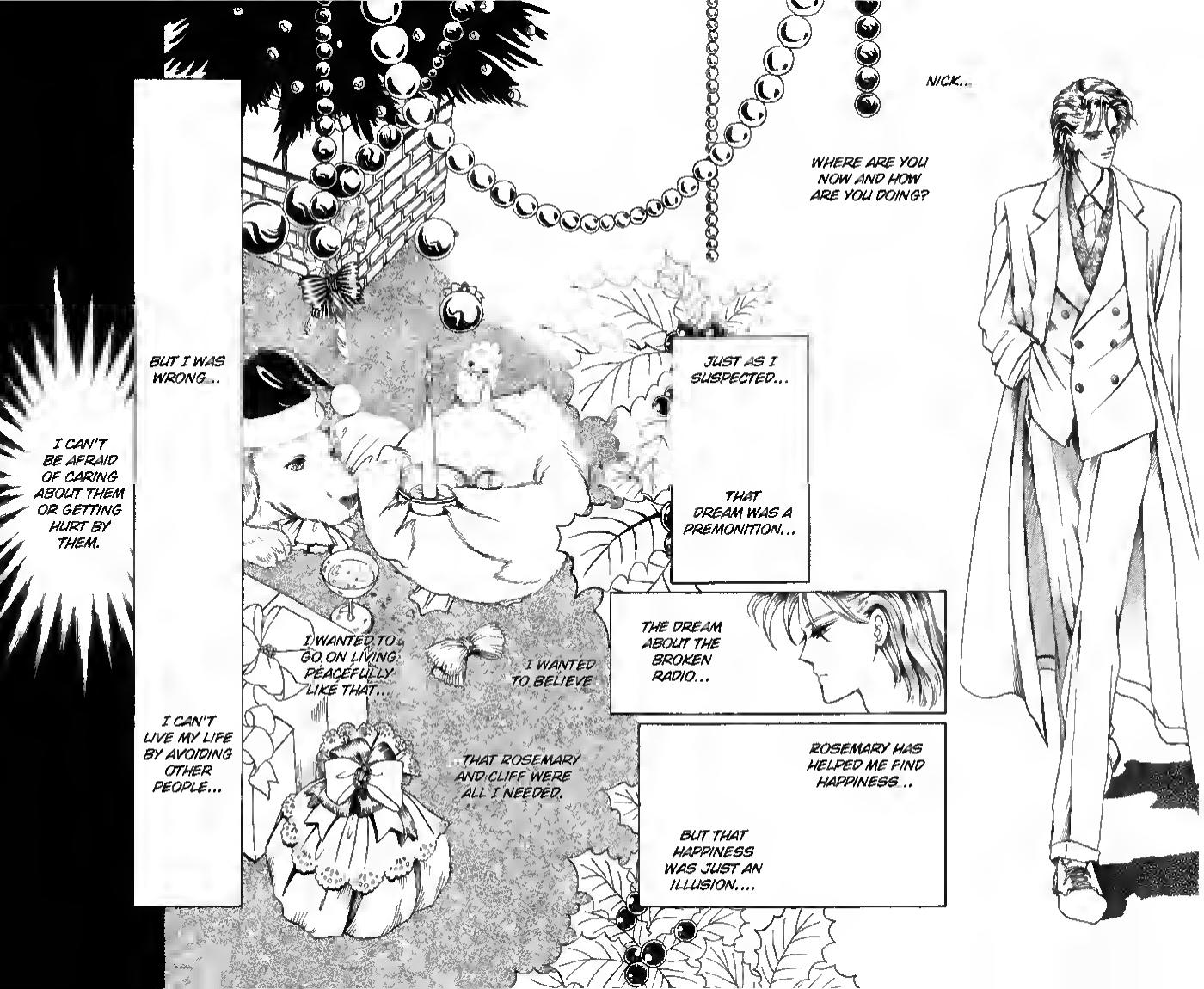
NICK...
WHERE ARE YOU NOW AND HOW ARE YOU DOING?
JUST AS I SUSPECTED...
THAT DREAM WAS A PREMONITION...
THE DREAM ABOUT THE BROKEN RADIO...
ROSEMARY HAS HELPED ME FIND HAPPINESS..
BUT THAT HAPPINESS WAS JUST AN ILLUSION....
I WANTED TO BELIEVE
THAT ROSEMARY AND CLIFF WERE ALL I NEEDED.
I WANTED TO GO ON LIVING PEACEFULLY LIKE THAT...
I CAN'T LIVE MY LIFE BY AVOIDING OTHER PEOPLE...
BUT I WAS WRONG...
I CAN'T BE AFRAID OF CARING ABOUT THEM OR GETTING HURT BY THEM.

BUT NARROW IS THE GATE AND STEEP IS THE PATH THAT LEADS TO LIFE AND FEW FIND IT.
CLANG
CLANG
A CHURCH?
IN THIS NEIGHBOR-HOOD?
WHAT?
THIS IS THE ADDRESS ON MARK'S LETTER!
BEFORE ME...
AT THAT MOMENT...
FOR WIDE IS THE GATE AND SMOOTH IS THE PATH THAT LEADS TO HELL AND MANY ENTER THROUGH IT.
ENTER THROUGH THE NARROW GATE
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The Gates Leading to Heaven/Fin

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DUCK LAKE

Fredward-shi no Ahiru

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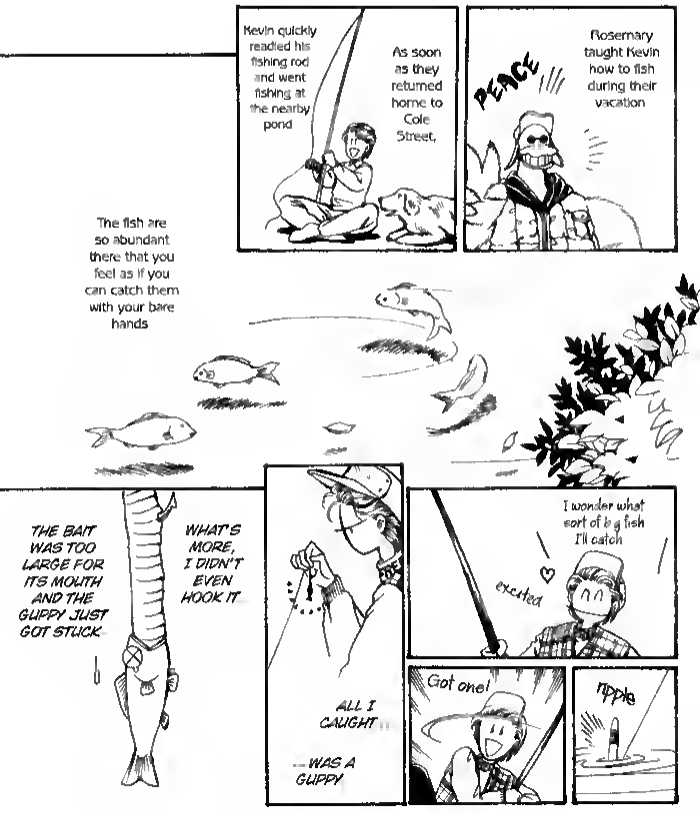
DUCK OMAKE

MAN AMONGST MEN - A STORY ABOUT KEVIN


Kevin quickly readied his fishing rod and went fishing at the nearby pond
As soon as they returned home to Cole Street,
PEACE
Rosemary taught Kevin how to fish during their vacation
The fish are so abundant there that you feel as if you can catch them with your bare hands
I wonder what sort of big fish I'll catch
excited
Got one!
Ripple
ALL I CAUGHT...
...WAS A GUPPY
THE BAIT WAS TOO LARGE FOR ITS MOUTH AND THE GUPPY JUST GOT STUCK.
WHAT'S MORE, I DIDN'T EVEN HOOK IT.

Not long after he received yet another one of Rosemary's many enlightening lessons...
Wachao!
WHY ...?
stun ned
he swore to never go fishing again
TOSS
Because his pride was wounded
But he calmly went to town like that,
with no shame at all
SALE
Maybe he's a follower of some new cult
Hey, look at that man!
Eggs and toilet paper
HUMPH
Kevin Fredward a man amongst men
GOOD BOYS AND GIRLS SHOULD NOT IMITATE HIM!

〈初出〉
●Shining Sea●1992年「ミステリーDX」9月号掲載
●見果てぬ夢のむこう●1992年「ミステリーDX」11月号掲載
●天誅に至る門●1993年「ミステリーDX」1月号掲載
●おまけのアピル●描きおろし

あすかコミックス
フレッドウォード氏のアピル　第3巻

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